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THE TALK OF THE TOWN.

ENGLISH weather, vile and ridiculous as it seems to the foreigner and to the traveller, is not without its value. The English people are a commercial people; they know how to make the most of a bad bargain, and lose few opportunities of salving their disasters by "damages;" and thus they have ever forced a compensation from the climate, for cough, cold, and catarrh, by rendering its extensive varieties a medium of introduction to all the pleasure and all the business of life. If the great physical want of the British lion is a sunny and unimpaired sky, the great moral desideratum of that animal whose especial characteristic it is to be very fond of peace but little alarmed at war is, a topic for conversation. Thus are all things arranged for good. A certain learned ecclesiastic once observed, as the most remarkable instance of that happy fact, that nature had caused a river to flow past every city of consequence in the world. He was a French ecclesiastic. Had he been born in England, it would not have been left for us to point a similar lesson, and to rouse an ungrateful people at this late period of its history to the fact that its colloquial destitution is provided for in the very climate they revile.

It is some compensation for the delay, however, that for a long series of years so fine an opportunity as the present affords has never presented itself for expatiating on this fortunate provision. Our contemporaries and we ourselves anticipated ere this such information from that most uneasy seat, the seat of war, as would have loosed the British tongue even in an omnibus. The expectancy is not fulfilled, and we are thrown upon the weather. But, let us ask, *what* weather? Ever a friend in need, it is now a friend indeed; for every man is his own traveller in Russian snows. The City of London, in several of its most important roads, is (or was) only approachable—(we quote from a very respectable journal, and on the testimony of several suburban citizens)—through "mountains of snow." The Wandsworth, Camberwell, and Kent-road traveller can tell of drifts, wreathes, avalanches, and Alpine

dangers. The river is impassable, and the ox roasted whole thereupon may not impossibly be roasted there again. The mails of Thursday were stopped, and the great metropolitan highways travelled by forlorn-hope omnibuses alone. Such a state of weather is something to be proud of; such a state of weather is something to talk of; and the ingratitude of the nation is reproved.

To this auspicious state of things, however, there is a severe side; and to this we most gravely and sorrowfully advert. There is a large class of our community whose business rarely is to talk—very decidedly to do. How to do is their great question, and "something to do" their great want. How to do is how to live; and something to do, something to eat. For these this hard and severe winter is severe upon cupboards, and the stoppage of the Thames puts their fires out. To do is a problem in which misery is a, an unknown quantity, at this bitter season. Winter is a time always dreaded by the poor; frost, however agreeable to the skater, is no friend to those whose only occupation then may be to strap the skates of the skater, and look on. When food and fuel are at their cheapest, and the winds of January most bland to the poorly clad, winter is a season of trouble to the poor, and its icicles, in the shape of debts, hang long and heavy upon the fruits of their spring; how, then, is it with them now, with January winds far from bland, and food and fuel at the dearest? It is true that the past year was marked by a prosperity almost if not quite unparalleled in the history of this prosperous empire; a prosperity marked not only in counting-houses, but in cottages and the general condition of the poor. It was eminently a *contented* year; as such, and if it were only followed by a series of such, it would have written its effect not only in the outward condition, but the inward and moral elevation of the masses; and on this account, too, we deplore the untoward prospect which the opening year affords. Eighteen

hundred and fifty-three was a peaceable year, and had an account at the savings' bank; Eighteen hundred and fifty-four promises to be a warlike year, with every prospect of keeping its promise faithfully; more than that, it opens with an inclemency that is fatal to the employment of thousands of the working-classes, while imposing additional weight to the necessities on all—on those that need help, and those who *might* help those that need; and with the merest necessities of existence at almost famine prices. What Eighteen hundred and fifty-three saved, therefore, we are afraid Eighteen hundred and fifty-four has already spent; with its omens yet to be fulfilled.

But sorry as we must be for all this, as every man must be, we scarcely less regret the folly, if it deserve no harsher designation, which has led the working-people voluntarily to increase their difficulties, and thus give occasion for much uncharitable feeling. We are of course understood to allude to "strikes" and the unhappy "labour question." Into this question we have forborne to launch in detail, because, while it is one of those which no argument but such as experience furnishes can ever settle, it is also a question which, however it might be decided by the rule of right, is sure to terminate in one result. It is of little use to cavil upon the justice of a necessity, so long as it remains a necessity; and while it is quite clear that the mechanic has a right to dispose as he chooses of his only capital, labour, it is equally evident that the price of labour must always be estimated by its demand, like every other commodity. It seems hard, and it *is* hard, that the whole exertions and use of a man's life should sometimes be purchasable at just such a sum as may enable him to sustain those exertions; but it still remains an inevitable condition of affairs, which at any rate can never be removed, and in its real effects must be greatly aggravated, by the system of "strikes."

It is a system which has inflicted much needless misery, and at the same time is imminently dangerous to society and the general weal.

It is a system that shuts bread from the cupboards of the thousands concerned in it as irrevocably as famine; it imposes a tax upon other thousands who take from their means



ODESSA, FROM AN AUTHENTIC SKETCH.

to support it, greater than did the corn-laws; and no one finds the lost leaves or can be benefited by the tax. We do hope that, while the severity of the weather will bring their folly nearer to the hearths of those concerned, it will bring it nearer to their comprehension and its own termination.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

RUSSIA AND TURKEY.

All postal communication being stopped by the state of the weather, our foreign intelligence is necessarily delayed. The following is the sum of present information.

Advices from Constantinople of the 19th ult. state that the Sultan had ordered the recruiting of Christian volunteers to cease. The British envoy is said to have resumed diplomatic relations with Persia. Rough weather had forced a Russian war-ship into the Bosphorus. The English fleet had received reinforcements.

The same advices state that the Grand Council had given the Ministers authority to enter upon peace negotiations, subject to the following conditions:—That the Danubian Principalities be evacuated. That the independence and integrity of the Ottoman Empire and the Sovereignty of the Sultan be perfectly secured. That the Porte consent to the conclusion of a neutral treaty, the stipulations of the treaties, and to reforms tending to the amelioration of the condition of the Christians.

Reschid Pacha, now supported by Halil Pacha in the Council, is in favour of peace, which the Sultan also desires.

On the evening of the 21st 3,500 Soltans attempted a riot. They pretended that the fundamental law (seriat) was violated by the resolutions of the Porte. English and French steamers were called to Constantinople; but the affair proved only a kind of stormy demonstration, put down without loss of blood.

Constantinople advices of the 22nd announce a second disturbance. The students, excited by some of the Ulema, had assembled to present a petition against the resolution taken by the Government. For a moment disturbances were feared, but an outbreak was prevented. 300 or 400 students had been arrested, and all was quiet.

The English and French Cabinets have already had examinations made of the situation of Sebastopol, the possibility of attacking it, but the reports sent in agree in affirming that it is out of reach of attack by sea, though not by land. To reach the town a channel of great length, upwards of three miles, it is said, must be passed up, the sides of which are protected by a most formidable artillery. If, therefore, any thing is to be attempted at Sebastopol, it must be by land, which would imply an invasion of the Crimea.

A private letter from Tiflis, of the 2nd ult., announces that Prince Woronzoff had received despatches from St. Petersburg, apprising him that a reinforcement of eighty pieces of artillery had been forwarded to him, with directions to carry on the war in Asia with the greatest activity.

Two firmans have been sent to Servia: one guarantees all the Serbian privileges, the other declares all the Russo-Turkish treaties null and void, but that Servia may demand the protection of all the Powers.

The Russo-Asiatic war is in a state of dissolution. Selim Pacha, or General Guyon, is said to have been killed by his own troops; such was a vague rumour afloat at Batoum.

All perfectly quiet at Bucharest; the vast quantity of snow rendering operations impossible.

The *Pressen-Bild* published advices from Bucharest of the 29th December, to the effect that the Turks have taken Karakal by storm, after an obstinate battle. This requires confirmation.

Russia is said to be as much excited against Austria as against England and France.

Kars is in the hands of the Russians.

The English steamer *Caradoc* was at Marseilles on the 1st, from Constantinople, which she left on the 25th of December. She brought despatches for the French and English Governments, but they announce little more than the conditional acceptance by the Porte of the last proposition of the Emperor of Vienna.

The fleets were still moored in the Bosphorus.

The steam corvette *Caton* had sailed from Toulon on the 1st, to join the squadron in the Levant under Admiral Hamelin.

The enthusiasm of the Turks and Tartars of the Dobruja is as great as ever, and even 400 volunteers from a Russian serf, in consequence of the persecution to which it was exposed, emigrated) are in the Turkish ranks. The Turks have never behaved with such humanity towards the Christians as during this war; but the requisitions for the troops fall heavily on the agricultural, whether Christian or Mohammedan.

Among all the cities of the Wallachian militia are now Russians. Eighteen hospitals have been established at Brailov, but only two of them are already filled, "the other sixteen are intended for the future," and this is not considered any very convincing proof of the sincerity of the peaceful professions of the Russian Government. The garrisons of Brailov and Galatz amount to about 10,000 men. The news from the Danube is of little importance, and extremely contradictory. The principal and most interesting fact is that any insult offered by the soldier to the Christian inhabitants invariably leads to a free administration of stick. In Madara, a large village, which is a sanctuary recognised by law for the Turkish women and girls who have fled from their husbands and parents, 4000 regular troops and 2000 Reddies are quartered. During the campaign the women of Madara have supplied the army with 10,000 shirts, bandages, and lint; and, as a reward for their humane and patriotic exertions, the Sultan has ordered silk dresses and a letter of commendation to be sent them. Intrenchments have been thrown up around Yarna, and the port is protected by four strand batteries, Silistria, where there were numerous skirmishes on the 15th, 16th, and 17th, has a garrison of 15,000 men. The Turks have failed in their endeavours to get their transport vessels into the port of Silistria, as every attempt has led to a heavy fire from the Russian batteries. It is affirmed that the Russians are preparing to attack Kalafat, but they will hardly attempt anything of importance before all Osten Sacken's troops are in the Principalities. There may have been slight outward affairs between Krajova and Kalafat; but there is some little reason for believing that, in default of news from Transylvania papers now and then draw on their powers of invention.

Not only Bucharest, but also Bulestiff, is being intrenched. There is an intrenched camp in front of this last place.

Osmán Pacha, who has undergone two operations (probably two amputations), is in extreme pain. The Russians aver that all the uniforms worn by the prisoners taken at Siniope have the French Government stamp.

Further orders have been sent by the Porte to Asia to raise fresh troops for the Caucasian army, and the conduct of the French and English Ministers has led it to believe that the fleets will not enter the Black Sea until the Russians have on all points victoriously assumed the offensive. Captain Slade has drawn up a memorial relative to the operations of the fleets in the Black Sea, which he will present to the representatives of the Western Powers.

A private letter from St. Petersburg gives the following reasons for the choice made by the Emperor of General Yermoloff for the command of the Persian army. The writer says that the general, who has been on the unemployed list since the year 1834, is the best officer in the entire Russian army. He is the chief of the liberal and the Muscovite party, and the most determined enemy of the German party. The Czar, in choosing General Yermoloff, wished to impress a character radically Muscovite on Russian influence in Persia, and to render the war more national. He was moreover preferred to Prince Woronzoff on account of the English sympathy for the latter, and for that reason a mission against British India could not be confided to him. It is reported that Prince Woronzoff will shortly be replaced by General Yermoloff.

A letter from Odessa of the 14th ult. announces that the camp formed

towards the end of the summer at Vosnesensk, at about five leagues from that town, has been raised, on account of the extreme severity of the season.

A Russian staff-officer asserts that the greater part of the artillerymen in Asia's army are foreigners, and, consequently, no quarter is given to our soldiers to either officers or men belonging to that arm who may fall into their hands. Nothing whatever of importance has recently occurred along the whole line of the Danube, but now that the river is completely frozen over, it is to be expected that we shall hear long without news of important events. Some of the Russian leaders, who are continually on the move between Galatz and Rani, is at the head of about 32,000 men. The available strength of the Russians in the two Principalities, and in that part of Bessarabia lying between Rani and the island of Ishail, is estimated at 105,000 men.

A letter from Kalisz, dated December 22nd, says that there is no indication of the army in Poland having received orders to march towards the theatre of war.

FRANCE.

Eastern affairs are still, of course, the leading topics of debate in Paris; and of the probability, or rather the certainty of war, there are very few in that capital who doubt. Those who were hitherto most inclined to believe in the possibility of peace, now all idea of peace being maintained. The only persons who appear to anticipate with pleasure and with confidence the future triumphs of Russia, and the humiliation of their own Government and of its present ally and friend, are the Fusionists; for on those triumphs is fixed their best hope of the restoration of the Bourbons.

It is stated positively in some political circles that the most flattering offers have been again urged by Russia on France, or rather the Emperor of the French, to induce him to break off the alliance with England. It is known that the "fusion" owes the sort of success it has met with to the influence of the Emperor of Russia; and that it is now a question whether the Emperor of Russia, fresh from his successful essay at conciliation, is ready to throw the Bourbons, older and younger, overboard, and whilst the "fusion" and all its anticipated consequences to the winds; if Louis Napoleon will consent, not to co-operate actively with him, but to become neutral in his quarrel with Turkey, and, above all, leave England in the lurch. This, it appears, is not the only temptation that has been held out; promises of aggrandisement on the continent of Europe and out of it have been lavished, but it is added, without effect.

It is gravely asserted that agents are very busy at work in the army, since the "fusion," to create a spirit of insubordination against the actual Government, and in favour of the Princes of Orleans; that frequent reports are addressed by those agents to the family in England, and by them transmitted to an illustrious person, who communicates them to the Government; that the healths of the Princes of Orleans are given as a guarantee for a negotiation in a quiet and dignified manner; that a well-known General in France; that the General in question has been asked by his superiors as to the truth of such a fact having taken place, but of which he declared he had no knowledge; that he is accordingly to be removed from his post. To this are added other details, pretending to show the existence of an extensive plot to gain over the army. It is also stated that circulars, printed in large type, have been distributed in the departments by unseen and mysterious hands, with the words, "*Le Tyran va faire un coup de police*."

M. de Brannock, at London, and M. de Kisseff, at Paris, have already received their instructions, and are to be sent to their conduct, in case the united fleets enter the Black Sea. As soon as that event is officially declared, both it is said, are to take their departure. On the other hand, a circumstance has taken place which does not look very warlike. The Minister of War has sent to all the colonies of the French army authority to grant leave of absence and furloughs for the first quarter of 1854.

At the reception on Sunday at the Tuileries, the Emperor, it was remarked, showed marked attention to M. de Kisseff. His Majesty made a point of saying something gracious or polite to each member of the diplomatic corps, and to the representative of Russia was, "*Monsieur l'ambassadeur, que l'année 1854 sera bonne pour nous tous*." The evening before there was a grand ball at the Princess Mathilde's, to usher in the new year. The Emperor and Empress, who were present, showed great attention to the Ministers of Russia and Austria, and the Emperor was greatly pleased to dance with M. M. Hulstner and M. de Kisseff. This latter also had the honour of waltzing with the Princess Mathilde.

It is affirmed in well-informed circles that the Hungarian refugees are quietly making preparations to take part in the coming struggle, should it so happen that Austria should declare openly in favour of Russia, or even manifest any symptoms of connivance with that power. General Klapka is already at Constantinople, and is to be shortly joined by several officers of his nation.

Colonel Count Znanowsky, nephew of Prince Cartorsky, will leave Paris on the 5th inst. for Constantinople, to represent the Emperor. Rumours have been again in circulation of an intended modification of the French Ministry, taking its origin in the difference of views which are known to exist among the present members of the Cabinet relative to the question of peace or war.

Notwithstanding the severe weather which prevailed in Paris last week, the streets were never more crowded with pedestrians visiting the shops and booths where New Year's presents of every description were laid out to tempt purchasers. In general, the shopkeepers had no cause to complain, although low-priced articles were chiefly in demand. The non-arrival of the French newspapers, and the state of the English funds, produced a complete stagnation on the Bourse.

AUSTRIA.

It is acknowledged even at Vienna that the peace of Europe is now seriously menaced. No one has any positive knowledge of what has recently been resolved on by the English and French Governments, but it is generally felt that the temporising system is about to be relinquished. It is thought highly probable that, if the Porte persists in refusing to treat until the Principalities have been evacuated, the Russians will undertake the following winter campaign.

It is affirmed that the Emperor of Austria has ordered the passage of the river at or near Matsch, Prince Gortschakoff attack Ratschuk, and General Aurey dislodge the Turks from Kalafat. The chief of the Russian army, which may be about 45,000 strong, with its headquarters at Bucharest, is under the immediate command of Prince Gortschakoff, who has a very large staff of General Officers. General Aurey, who commands the right wing, which may consist of some 28,000 men, is now at Krajova.

According to the German papers, the Austrian Budget for 1854 will show a deficit of 45,000,000 florins (45,000,000 on the ordinary service, and 50,000,000 florins (45,000,000 on the extraordinary)—a result which may lead to a serious catastrophe, and will account for the refusal of the eminent bankers at home and abroad to enter on a contract for a new loan with the Austrian Government.

PRUSSIA.

Fresh arrests, effected during the last few days, have proved that the conspiracy of last March was more extensive than had been supposed. Sentence on the prisoners of that period is still delayed by one of them, who is suffering from mental alienation.

The King of Prussia has ordered that mention shall be made in the prayers of the Evangelical Church of Christians dwelling among the Indians, and a special form of prayer has been ordered to be inserted in the Prussian prayer book. The Prussian journals announce that the Federal Diet of Frankfurt has been gravely occupied at this critical moment with discussing an invention for the fabrication of artificial coffee.

DENMARK AND SWEDEN.

The *Aftandlad* announces, on authority, that the Secret Committee of the Swedish Diet has decided on strict neutrality in case of war.

A treaty has been concluded with Denmark for a common course of operations by sea.

ITALY.

We read in the *Pichoniana Gazette* of the 30th ult. —

"The accounts received this morning from Asta are most reassuring. The Bishop, the Intendant, and the Mayor, M. Crotti, went out to meet the insurgents, and induced them to lay down their arms. The National Guard, the firemen, and a few veteran soldiers maintained order and prevented the insurgents from entering the town. The Intendant-General has entered Asta with the troops, and the revolt may be regarded as appeased."

According to the latest intelligence from Asta, two small bands of insurgents still traversed the mountains, closely followed by the troops.

The *Facc della Libertà* states that the insurgent bands in the Valley of Aosta are simultaneously appearing on three points—at St. Martin, Verrez, and Bard, and that the movement had extended to the valleys of Locana and Pont. According to the *Arvian*, the insurgents who invaded St. Martin and Donnes came from the valleys of Gressoney, Val Chissellais, Brozzo, and other neighbouring localities. They consisted of about 3000 men, armed with pikes and swords, and seemed anxious to cross over into Savoy. They cried, "Long live the King! Down with the Constitution! Maize at three lives!" The Intendant of Ivrea sallied out in pursuit of them, at the head of 300 National Guards and the pupils of the military school. The rillmen of Turin had also been marched against the insurgents.

SPAIN.

Our accounts from Madrid are of the 28th ult.

The position of the Queen was as satisfactory as possible. Her Majesty's confinement was expected to take place between the 6th and the 8th of January.

The Duke of Parma was to arrive in the beginning of the year, on a visit to the royal family.

The President of the Council has completely recovered from his late illness.

The wound of the Marquis de Turgot was beginning to heal, but the pain in his leg has not entirely subsided.

The *Fuero* of Viggo announces that an English squadron, intended for the Tagus, was expected in that port, and that an English frigate was to remain stationed at Viggo.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The mail-ship *Bosphorus* arrived at Plymouth on Monday. Within the Cape colony everything was peaceful and progressive. In the Orange River Sovereignty Sir George Clerk proceeds steadily in maturing arrangements for the withdrawal of British authority from the north side of the river. The election for the Legislative Council was to commence on the 9th of January. The copper-mines on the Orange River appear to be productive. About 200 tons of copper ore have been shipped. Great inconvenience is experienced in consequence of the desertion of scamen.

AMERICA.

By the arrival of the *Niagara*, at Liverpool, we have advices from New York to the 20th, and from Boston to the 21st December. She passed the Europa steamer on the 2nd inst. but the latter was not in the Channel. The proceedings in Congress were unimportant. The question of slavery had again been debated in the House of Representatives.

A Washington correspondent of the *New York Tribune* writes—"The Government is anxious about Sonora affairs. It telegraphed to New York to detain the California steamer, *hatter*, it was received two days. The object was to order a naval officer to proceed to Panama and charter a steamer, procure a crew, and sail for the Gulf of California in search of the schooner having on board the Sonora filibusters, capture the men, and carry them to California for trial. It is feared that Santa Anna will capture and summarily execute them, which would inflame and make filibusters of all Californians, and possibly produce another Mexican war. Government, though failed in stopping the steamer, will find some way to prevent Santa Anna from shedding American blood."

A verdict of 10,000 dollars damages had been given against the *New York Herald* for a libel upon the management of the *New York Herald*.

The speeches made at the dinner given to John Mitchell, at the Broadway Theatre, New York, fill a large portion of the papers. The "Irish patriots" mustered in great force.

A section of the Grand Central Railroad between Windsor and Chatham, had been opened. A body of men was being organised in New York to assist the Turks. Damage to the extent of 128,000 dollars had been occasioned by a fire at Brooklyn. A serious riot had occurred on the Illinois Central Railroad, a party of Irish having murdered a contractor named Story. On the arrival of the sheriff, a conflict took place, resulting in the death of an Irishman.

Letters from Halifax report that the Humboldt had gone to pieces—very little of the cargo saved.

From Havana we have accounts to the 14th ult., at which date the year was closing. The prevailing feeling was that the year had been the worst of the troops daily. The Emperor for harshness is said to have created much terror among the troops and citizens. An order had been issued to all the capitans de Partidos to exercise the most rigid surveillance over the inhabitants, and to report the daily actions of the suspicious. Another order had also been issued, bidding any Spaniard to leave the island under pain of death. Two Creoles had been arrested at Cardenas on a charge of treason. The British mail steamer had on freight 1,600,000 dollars. General Canedo left for Spain on the 11th.

A telegraphic message from New York, Dec. 22nd, evening, gives the following.

The Hermann has not arrived.

Advices from Washington state that the Naval Committee of the Senate had reported favourably on the immediate construction of six steam frigates.

A meeting dated on slavery had taken place in the House on a resolution voting a sword and thanks to Captain Ingraham for his conduct in the Smyrna affair. Gerrit Smith, New York abolition representative, introducing the subject.

The railroad riots in Pennsylvania still continue. According to the last accounts, the citizens, led, headed by the mayor, were tearing up the track of the Western road at the street crossings. At Fairview township the citizens were also tearing up the track. The bells were ringing, cannons firing, and the greatest excitement prevailed.

The Legislature of Texas had passed a bill incorporating the Mississippi Pacific Railroad.

The steamer *Zachary Taylor* had exploded, killing three persons and sending ten; and the steamer *Marlborough* exploded at Charleston, killing thirteen persons.

The United States Government has despatched an officer to the Pacific to take measures to capture the French and Spanish pirates.

Advices from New Orleans give positively that any Cuban expedition is fitting out.

Advices from St. Domingo report a difficulty between the Government and the French war steamer.

The French Government is expected to support one to suit French interests. Great excitement in St. Domingo city in consequence.

THE WEAVERS' MOVEMENT.—The predictions of the delegates have been fully realised by the largely-increased contributions received from the various districts at the meeting of the central committee, held on Sunday at the Temperance Hall in Preston. It had been intimated that the income of the weavers' committee would be less than last week's £2,000; the delegates at their disposal on Monday actually exceeded £3,200. This augmented income enables the committee to advance the pay of the unemployed weavers from 4s. to 6s. 6d. per head, and to reserve a balance in hand. The other classes of operatives are to receive a proportionate addition to their week's pay. All the districts sent in enlarged subscriptions; but the chief contributors were the people of Blackburn, who forwarded £1,000. The "new year's gift" (as the increase of pay is designated) afforded matter for congratulation to the speakers at an open-air meeting held in the Orchard at noon.

IRELAND.

EXTRAORDINARY CASE OF POISONING.

The town and neighbourhood of Roscrea was thrown into the greatest consternation on Christmas-day, during divine service, by intelligence having been communicated to the police that several families had been poisoned by having eaten wholemeal bread at breakfast. Medical assistance was rendered to the unfortunate sufferers, when it was ascertained that the bread, of an intense degree, under the violent symptoms produced by the seeds (dour) of the diseased *Darnel* grass, commonly called *rye*, which was mixed with the wholemeal. Over thirty persons received medical aid, and presented the following symptoms, as if from intoxication:—Staggering about, giddiness, violent tremors of the extremities and other parts of the body, similar to those observed in *delirium tremens*, but of much greater intensity—the patients requesting those about them to hold them, and experiencing great comfort from this assistance being given them—greatly impaired vision, everything appearing quite green to the sufferer, coldness of the skin, particularly of the hands and feet, great prostration of strength, and, in several cases vomiting. The treatment adopted consisted of emetics and sulphate of zinc, which in some cases did not act till a stimulant was given of volatile aromatic spirit of ammonia in camphor mixture; then they acted freely, showing that paralysis of the stomach was to a certain degree produced by the *Lactaria emeticum*, or rye. After the free and full action of the emetic stimulants were administered, which consisted of brandy and water, and volatile aromatic spirit of ammonia with camphor mixture. Castor oil was administered the following morning, when all the sufferers were found convalescent, but much debilitated. Under similar circumstances, emetics of mustard might be found more suitable, as it acts both as a stimulant and as a purgative, and the bread is eaten when quite cold, it will not produce the above severe symptoms. Each seed has a long tail, which cannot be removed by any machinery that has yet been devised, and it will consequently be found mixed up with the bread. The bread thus remained, when eaten, was very heavy, close, and, and some of it was mixed with soda, and some with plain water. This did not make any difference in the symptoms, which were the same in both cases.

DOUBLE MURDER.

The *Wexford Independent* has the following account of an atrocious case of double murder committed in the quiet and orderly county of Wexford, and the sole motive for which, it would appear, was robbery:—“The unfortunate occurrence took place on the night of Friday, the 23rd of December, and the victims were Thomas Bates, and his wife, who resided in a small cabin on the roadside at Rylands, near Clonahon, in the barony of Scarawash. They were dealers in apples, daisies, and other small commodities, and invariably kept a stand in Newtownbarry on the Saturday. The fatal fate of the unhappy couple was not known until the afternoon, on Saturday, when a man, who was brother to the woman, missing them from their usual stand in the market, went to the house about three o'clock in the afternoon. He found the door shut, and all silent. He then went to another relative, and both returned to the cabin and raised the door off its hinges, when the appalling spectacle of the lifeless bodies of the man and wife, their heads frightfully mangled, met their sight, the heads literally beaten to atoms. The weapons used by the murderers (for there was evidently more than one engaged in the horrid brutality) were a spade, a pair of tongs, and a blunt billhook, which belonged to the house, and were found in it covered with blood. The spade appeared to have been used as a instrument with which the skull was first cleft, and, breaking, the handle was then often used. The woman was found dreadfully battered about the head. The object of the murderers was to possess themselves of money, about £70, which Bates was known to have, and which his wife was in the habit of carrying in a kind of purse with a string round her neck. The woman was found with the purse, for the broken string was still round her neck. They also retained a horse, for in a broken box in the bed-room, the only one in the cabin, a shirt stained by the bloody hand of one of the murderers was found. The murder was perpetrated at an early hour, before the couple had retired to bed, perhaps just as they were preparing to go to bed, and shoes off, and the wife her cap. About nine o'clock a neighbour had seen them at their fire, the wife plucking a goose, which was found on the table, as if laid aside when finished. The murderers on going away locked the door, so that the cabin being closed so long in the day did not create any suspicion in neighbours or passers-by, the owners being supposed to be, as usual, at market, until Curran went to inquire about their absence. The Lord Lieutenant has offered a reward of £100 for the discovery of the perpetrators of these brutal murders.”

SCOTLAND.

THE SCOTCH COAL MINERS.

A meeting of the coal miners of Life has been held at Crossgates, to petition Parliament for an eight hours' labour bill, and for an extension to Scotland of the law of coroners' inquests as in England, connected with coal workings.

PIT EXPLOSION, AND LOSS OF LIFE.

Early on Friday week an explosion of fire-damp took place at a coal-pit, Hamilton-hill, near Rockvale. It appears that the duty of examining the pit was that of a night watchman, before the explosion, and he resumed work for the day was intrusted to William Dick, the foreman of the pit. In doing this, a Davy lamp is used. On Friday morning, however, shortly before six o'clock, a number of the workers went down, headed by William Dick, with him a common open lamp, and followed by the others. There being a quantity of foul air in the pit, an immediate explosion took place, killing a man named Andrew Buchanan and descending by a frightful injury, Dick and the other three men, named James Devlin, Hugh, and John Ralston. Dick died in the course of the forenoon, and little hopes are entertained of the recovery of the other men.

THE LATE EXTRAORDINARY ROBBERY IN GLASGOW.

At the Glasgow Circuit Court on Thursday week, George Jackson was charged with having, on the morning of Sunday, the 1st of October, last, with one or more accomplices, broken into the shop of Mr. Rait, goldsmith and jeweller, Buchanan-street, Glasgow, and stolen therefrom the value of the amount of nearly £300. The panel pleaded not guilty. The panel obtained access to the premises referred to by the use of false keys to the premises of Messrs. Campbell and Co., warehousemen, when he proceeded to remove, by a crowbar, a hearthstone from the wall, and effected an opening through the roof of Mr. Rait's premises, and descended by a ladder, and took away property to the value of the sum of £200. The panel was defended by Mr. Logan, and during the proceedings, one of the jurymen was taken ill, and the diet had to be deserted against the prisoner, *pro loco et tempore*, but he was immediately apprehended on a new warrant, and will, in all likelihood, be tried in Edinburgh.

PROVINCIAL NEWS.

A REFRACTORY SPAN.—At the Liverpool Police-court, Robert Taylor, a seaman, was charged with an assault on Captain Barnes, of ship Dryad. The Dryad sailed hence for China, and on a voyage, was that port the prisoner, who refused to work, and on a voyage, was put in prison for seventy days, by the advice of the British Consul. When up a large carrying vessel, he was brought on board again, when he took defence, presented a pistol at him, and the prisoner on this took down the knife, and was taken down below in irons. The next day the ship was

discovered to be on fire in the part where the prisoner lay. The prisoner was sent to gaol for three months, with hard labour.

THE STENDIPARY MAGISTRATE QUESTION AT BIRMINGHAM.—On Tuesday the question of applying to Government for the appointment of a stipendiary magistrate for the borough of Birmingham was brought under the consideration of the town-council; and, after a discussion of six hours, the motion was negatived by a majority against it of twenty-seven to twenty-one.

CONFESSION OF MURDER.—A very painful sensation has been excited in the neighbourhood of Plymouth by the confession of a prisoner in the 50th Regiment, Benjamin McDonnell, that he had a short time since murdered a young woman named Theresa Randle, a native of Lancashire, who, it was said, had accompanied the regiment on its removal from Preston to Plymouth. Upon information to this effect being received by the use of the Devonport police, the superintendent, proceeded to the prison on Thursday week, and had an interview with McDonnell, in the presence of the chief warder, when he made a voluntary confession of his guilt. Mr. Gifford having taken the man's statement, next proceeded to trace the woman to her last place of abode, in the neighbourhood of Stouffville, but he failed to find her, and no conclusive has been elicited; and, from the strange conduct of the prisoner, there is good reason to believe that he is labouring under some hallucination of intellect. The prisoner, in his statement, speaks of an old cattle, by which he is supposed to mean Roborough Rock, a prominent object, well known to the high road between the town and Tavistock; but no discovery of any body in the spot indicated has yet been made.

DEATHS FROM CHARCOAL.—On Saturday, Mr. Churchill, the borough coroner, held an inquest at the Colchester Union-house upon the bodies of two children, aged respectively ten and seven years, whose deaths were caused by the use of a charcoal stove. An accident of the same character occurred last week to a labourer named Bickford, at Chadleigh, in Devonshire.

FARMERS FIRE THEIR STACKS.—On the 10th of November last, a fire broke out on the premises of Mr. Charles Bates, of Emswell, near Wisbech, and two wheat stacks were consumed. Subsequent inquiries led to the apprehension of Bates, and his wife, and the petty sessions at Terrington. Thomas Escott said he got his supper about half-past seven o'clock on the 10th of November in the keeping-room; his master was sitting by the fire: he had his heavy boots and buskins on, a circumstance which he had never before noticed since he had lived with Mr. Bates. He heard, he said, his master say to him, “Turn the horses out”; it was then about a quarter to twelve o'clock. He had to go across a piece of grass ground at the back of the farm; when he had done so, as he was returning, he observed a light against the stacks, and thought it was from a gig lamp on the road. When he got into the road, he saw a light, and he went to that light, and found the stacks; the premises; he then saw a person, and said, “Is that you, master?” He replied “Yes.” Witness said, “The stacks are on fire.” Mr. Bates said, “Where?” and he replied, “Where you have just passed.” His master hastened into the house, and witnessed followed him, and heard his mistress say, “I hope you have not done it, my dear.” His master said, “I have been with John” (meaning Bates), who replied, “No, you have not been with me; I only met you half a minute since.” Heard his mistress ask his master whether she should clear the house; he said there was no danger. Soon afterwards Mr. Sharpe came up, and sent him (witness) to Wisbech for the fire engine. He himself did not tell him to go for the engine, and gave him his keys. Some days after the fire his master was walking with him, and he pulled out a paper and read it over to him, and said, “Now, mind what you have said; don't say any more; and if you don't say any more than you have said, they can't get me.” Elizabeth Diggle corroborated the last witness. He was remained for a fortnight, but admitted to bail, himself in £200, and two sureties in £100 each.

THE LATE GARROTT MURDER AT BARNSEY.—The adjourned inquest touching the death of Thomas Hushand, the man who was found dead on the Barnsey and Pontefract turnpike-road on Sunday evening week, was resumed on Tuesday last, at the depot of the railway, and turned the following open verdict:—“That the deceased, Thomas Hushand, was found dead, but there is not sufficient evidence to show how he came to his death.”

THE “NOBLE BRITISH ART.”—On Wednesday, the 28th ult., two excavators, named Thomas Kay and John Clarke, were drinking at the Crown Inn, Horwich, in company with other labourers. A dispute took place as to which of the two was “the best man,” and to decide the matter it was agreed that they should fight. About six o'clock in the evening they got into a room at the Crown Inn, with each a second, and a third person to see fair play, and looked for the door. After the combat had lasted five rounds, a blow from Clarke's fist, on the side of the throat, and it is supposed injured his jaw, for he dropped upon the floor, and died in a few minutes. Clarke, and two of the men who were present, are in custody; the other has escaped.

ACCIDENT AT THE SOUTHAMPTON DOCKS.—On Tuesday morning, between five and six o'clock, the various persons in and about the vicinity of the docks were startled by a loud explosion, and upon inquiry a discovery it was found to be caused by the falling of the immense “suez” (or, in plainer terms, “crane”), which were erected at the south side of the docks for the purpose of raising boilers in and out of ships, &c., and other dead weight. So strong was the construction of this machine that as much as fifty tons could be raised at one time by its hydraulically-constructed levers. The exact cause of the accident has not yet been satisfactorily ascertained, but it is conjectured that the foundation could not have been sufficiently strong to bear its immense weight. In its fall it carried away a very large portion of the dock wall adjacent; and had it not happened that the shears fell inland, and not into the dock, there is little doubt but that the Peninsular and Oriental Company's steamship Madrid, which has been undergoing repair for some time past, and which is placed directly beneath them, must have been partially, if not wholly destroyed, as well as persons standing on the pier. The “pair of shears” was erected some few years ago by the Dock Company, at an enormous expense, and from their now damaged appearance there is no doubt that they must be replaced by new ones, which will incur an expense of some few thousand pounds. The noise of the crash was heard for more than a mile distant.

FEARFUL GAS EXPLOSION.—On Wednesday morning, about eight o'clock, an explosion of gas took place in the house of Mrs. Bridgend, of so violent a character as almost completely to destroy the building and the furniture it contained. The roof of the house, which is but one storey, and consisting of two apartments, is in several places raised off the walls. The back window, with the inside shutters, were entirely driven out. The front door, with the inside shutters, were carried off by a masonry bedstead have been smashed asunder, and of an eight-day clock but a small remnant of the case remains. As showing, too, the immense power of the exploded gas, it may be noticed that the clothes-chest of the servant-girl, who was in the room, and driven to the top of the kitchen wall where the roof was blown up. With the exception of Mrs. Kidd, who was struck upon the head and face by the falling lath and plaster, and who had one of her legs from the ankle to the knee much lacerated, the whole inmates providently escaped.—*Perth Courier.*

BEARDED POLICE.—The Ipswich Borough police-officers are to be allowed to wear moustaches and beards, if they prefer. A report to the Watch Committee for permission to dispense with the razor, which was readily granted. Some of the Committee expressed their intention, it is said, of adopting the moustache themselves.

WHO WILL CUT THE TIGER'S NAILS?—Mr. Vallance appeared at the Hull Police-court, on Friday week, and called the attention of the sitting magistrate to the fact that he had been ordered by the Hull Zoological Gardens. He stated that it had for some time suffered much in consequence of its nails growing and cutting its flesh, the poor animal being almost unable to put its feet to the ground. He understood it was considered dangerous to do anything to the nails, but he, nevertheless, thought it a proper case for investigation by the magistrates, and he

wished to know whom he could summon? Mr. McManus suggested that chloroform should be administered to the animal, under the influence of which he thought the nails could be cut without danger. The magistrates said they had no power to interfere in the matter.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

ROYAL ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL.—The committee of this hospital have determined on the erection of a more commodious building; and towards raising the necessary funds the Right Hon. Lord Robert Grosvenor, M.P., has consented to preside over a public festival in March next. It is estimated that about £10,000 will be required, and many handsome sums have already been contributed; and it is hoped that they will be liberally followed, so that the benevolent objects of the committee may be carried out with the least possible delay.

ACCIDENT AT THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.—On Tuesday morning a serious accident occurred to Thomas Murlon, at the new Houses of Parliament. He was engaged outside the building, when he slipped on some snow, and fell through a skylight of depth of twenty feet. He was picked up in a state of insensibility, and conveyed to Westminster Hospital, where not the slightest hopes are entertained of his recovery.

HEALTH OF LONDON DURING THE WEEK.—The deaths in London registered in the week that ended last Saturday amounted to 1,656. Coroner's cases, that have been accumulating for some time, and were registered at the end of the quarter in unusual number, have partly contributed to produce the excess. The mortality has been raised principally by the severity of the weather. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1849-52, the average number of deaths was 1,160, which, if raised in proportion to increase of population, becomes 1,274. There is an excess in the number actually returned above the calculated amount of 380. The deaths arising from diseases of the respiratory organs rose last week to 947, while the corrected average for corresponding weeks is 259; to bronchitis 171 are attributed; to pneumonia, 118; to hooping-cough, 65.

PARCHALIC NEGLIGENCE.—On Tuesday Mr. Wm. Baker resumed an inquiry respecting the death of John Oliver, aged sixty-five years, who was found perfectly naked, lying on the floor of a wretched hotel, situated at 21, Peter's-court, Cartwright-street. It appeared from the evidence that on Tuesday last he declared that he was starving. His case was referred to the coroner, who, as assistant master of the city gaol, and as coroner, was removed on Mr. Wm. Brooks, the relieving officer, in order to obtain his report into the workhouse. He was unable to give an order until the deceased had been visited by the medical officer, and he left an order to that effect at his surgery. It was not called for; and it is supposed that the deceased, who was a man of a very strong constitution, had not been seen by any one. Verdict.—“That the deceased was found dead on the floor of a garret apparently having died from starvation, want, and privation; and that the coroner be requested to write to the board of guardians of the Whitechapel Union, directing their attention to the necessity of a clear and distinct method of carrying into prompt effect the orders of the medical officers of the union.”

REMOVAL OF CITY CHURCHES.—The Bishop of London has approved of a plan which has been submitted to him by the Rev. Charles Hume, M.A., Rector of St. Michael's, Wood-street, for removing some of the churches in the City, with a view to a supply of some of the suburbs. The reverend gentleman states that a small number of the city churches, considerable and encouraging congregations, two or three of them amounting to nearly 300. On the other hand, the attendance at some falls below sixteen; and there are many at which it does not amount to fifty; the average attendance at the churches proposed to be removed being only twenty. It is not, however, in the least such as the state of the suburbs, and a return made by the House of Commons by the subdivision of parish commissioners, that no fewer than fifty-eight new churches are required in the diocese of London. Of this number forty-nine are required for the metropolitan district and immediate suburbs, and nine for towns and districts within eight miles of St. Paul's. The same authorities show that less than twenty churches would meet the wants of the population resident within the City of London Union, and, consequently, at least thirty-eight churches might be advantageously taken down and rebuilt in such other parts of the metropolis and its environs as are deficient in church accommodation.

EXHIBITION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY.—On Tuesday a private view of the photographs and daguerotypes of this society was given at the gallery of the Society of British Artists in Suffolk-street, Pall-mall. Her Majesty and Prince Albert graced the exhibition with their presence, at eleven o'clock, and took a minute inspection of the vast number of works assembled. Both the Queen and the Prince are known to be distinguished amateurs in this new art, and their evident curiosity which proved it something more than a state visit. After staying about an hour, they expressed their great gratification at perceiving the rapid improvements made in the processes. It is quite unnecessary, were it possible, to note individually the number of the American daguerotypes, the vast variety of works it is almost impossible to fix upon any particularities. Those by the collodion process seem most numerous, and appear to be the most pleasing. Altogether, indeed, this may be pronounced to be one of the most interesting exhibitions of the season.

THE LONDON DOCKS.—At the annual meeting of the London Dock Company, held on Tuesday, John Cattley, Esq., the chairman, Mr. Powles (the secretary) read the report of the directors, from which it appeared that the number of ships which had entered the docks within the six months, to the 30th of November last, was 646, measuring 207,348 tons. For the corresponding period of 1853 the number was 711, measuring 238,515 tons. The amount earned was £250,000 7s. 2d.; and for the corresponding period of 1853, £235,899 16s. 4d. The expenditure was £151,775 17s. 11d.; and for the same period in 1853, £140,231 14s. 4d. The balance standing to the credit of the profit and loss was £56,073 18s. 11d. A dividend of 10s. per share for the year was recommended, and that a sum of £10,000 be appropriated towards new works. The royal assent had been given to the new bill, and arrangements had been made for the purchase of the lands. The chairman having briefly remarked on the favourable condition of the company's affairs, the report was adopted unanimously.

DARING ROBBERY.—On Wednesday morning, a case of a daring robbery committed at the ele and beer-house, sign of the Horse, situated directly opposite to the door of the Worship-street Police-court. A number of smartly-dressed fellows, known as companions of well-motivated thieves, had been observed hanging about the passages of the police-court, and two or three of them went over to the beer-house, and the baggellone, and on stairs upon pretence of asking themselves by playing a game. The result showed, however, that they contemplated a more serious game than the mere baggellone, for it was afterwards discovered that, while some watched the motions of the persons in the bar, others of the party entered the landlady's bedroom with a skeleton key, ransacked the place, and carried off a silver watch, a pair of gold chains, and a quantity of apparel, about £15 worth of property altogether. The rogues were rammed about the bed, and searched various other places, apparently in quest of money and plate, in which, however, they were disappointed.

MAGE PRESSES.—A fire took place on Wednesday morning at the house of Messrs. the Landlords of Old Paradise-street, and the premises were in consequence of the difficulty in obtaining water the premises were burnt down, and the stock in trade, furniture, &c., destroyed. Mr. Belton was insured in the Phoenix Fire Office. The building of Mr. Jones, a dairyman, adjoining, and the furniture of some lodgers, were much injured. A fire of the same kind took place in the premises of Messrs. Hobbs and Co., patent lock-makers, Chesapeake, but the flames were extinguished before much damage was done. On Tuesday night a fire occurred at the house of Lord Northampton, Seymour-place, Curzon-street, May-fair. The first and second floors of the house were much damaged, and considerable injury was done to the furniture.

SCENERY AND COSTUMES OF THE WORLD.

EGYPT.

Our illustrations of the scenery and costumes of the world cannot be better introduced than by that narrow valley, watered by the bounteous Nile, which reaches from Nubia to the Mediterranean Sea, lying between the great Lybian and the smaller Arabian deserts, and denominated Egypt. Its primeval history is necessarily lost in the abyss of time: its majestic temples, partly smothered in the annually-encreaching dust, its gigantic monuments, and its ruined cities, speak of those earlier races of mankind of whom nothing is known save by tradition; but every Christian, when his attention is called to this bright eastern clime, reverts at once to the dwelling of God's chosen people in that land for upwards of four hundred years, to the coming of that new King "who knew not Joseph," and to their departure from the land of bondage, having increased and multiplied to the extraordinary number of 600,000 men.

Of course, in such a circumscribed notice as the present, it is impossible to enter into anything like details of the extensive animal-worship of the Egyptians; but still a slight glance at their mythology and supposed history may not be unacceptable to the general reader. The gods and goddesses are said to have governed Egypt for millions of years, the last of them being Osiris and Isis with Horus, their son. Osiris was the reputed builder of Thebes, "with the hundred gates;" he was the creative spirit who endowed Egypt with all good gifts; but on his returning from a distant expedition, he was slain by Typhon—the type of darkness and disorder—and became a deity, under the name of Serapis, whilst the rulership of the country passed into the hands of man. The first mortal king is said to have been Menes, who founded Memphis; and to him succeeded numerous dynasties, during which the oldest pyramids are thought to have been built, with the remarkable labyrinth at Fayoum constructed; and then came the pastoral nomadic kings, with Joseph and Sesostris, the mightiest of all the Pharaohs. His empire extended throughout Abyssinia even to Assyria and Asia Minor. The erection of the rock-temple in Nubia

is ascribed to him; trade and agriculture flourished under his auspices, and Egypt is reported to have numbered 20,000 towns and cities. In the twenty-sixth dynasty we find tradition yielding to real history: intercourse with Greece had been established; sages, including Pythagoras and Solon, came to Egypt to study; and the kings were attended by an Ionian body-guard. The captain of this corps, having revolted during the reign of the great Psammetichus, passed over to the Persians, and induced the ambitious Cambyses to make an inroad, which led to a battle, where the Egyptian king was taken prisoner, and his only son violently put to death. The Persians, who detested idol-worship, broke the sphinxes and colossi whenever they could do so, and mutilated the gigantic structures that adorned the land; but in their turn they yielded to the conqueror Alexander the Macedonian, who built Alexandria, at the outlets of the Nile, in order to facilitate the traffic, which had then become important, between the eastern and the western world.

At his death and the partition of the Greek empire amongst his generals, Egypt fell to the share of Ptolemy, whose descendants ruled for 284 years, building the lighthouse at Alexandria, deemed one of the wonders of the world, and the Alexandrian library—afterwards burnt by Amru, Mahomet's chief lieutenant—until Julius Caesar placed Cleopatra on the throne; and after the defection of Mark Antony and the battle of Actium, Egypt became a Roman province. From this period all is clear. Egypt, abounding then, as now, with cotton and every species of cereal production, supplied imperial Rome with corn, and was adorned by the emperors with magnificent and useful buildings; Christianity obtained a firm footing notwithstanding the cruel persecutions of Domitian; whilst numerous hermits inhabited the rocky caverns in the immediate vicinity of Thebes and the deserted temples of the gods. At the division of the Roman empire, Egypt was allotted to Byzantium. Then came the madness of the West, in the form of the Crusades; the establishment of the Mamelukes under the chivalrous Saladin; the ejection of the Fatimite Caliphs by the Sultan Selim I., in 1517, and the Ottoman rule; down to the uprising of that extraordinary man, the renegade Albanian, Mehemet Ali, the grandfather of Abbas, the present Viceroy, who pays a yearly tribute, and acknowledges a nominal fealty to the Porte.

The fertility of Egypt is rigidly confined to a portion of land on each side of the sinuous Nile; the river is hemmed in, as it were, between two immense yellow sand-plains, and cultivation is limited to the green stripes that fringe its banks. If by any dire catastrophe the desert should advance and cover the river with its sand, Egypt would cease to be: the Nile is the main artery that holds the very life-blood of the land; its annual rising is awaited with the most intense anxiety, and prayers are offered universally for its increase. In the middle of June the wildest rejoicings take place on the Leyet en Naktah, the nights when a fruiting drop is believed to fall from heaven into the bosom of the stream; and towards the end of August the river has risen so high that the gates of the sluices of the grand canal at Cairo can be opened. An imposing ceremony ensues, without distinction of religion: the "Bride of the Nile," a clay figure symbolical of the human sacrifice of bygone ages, is thrown into the river; and the water passing through Cairo, is conducted by a thousand devices over the face of Lower Egypt. The stream continues rising until October, when it becomes stationary, and then gradually descends until drought prevails again.

Grand Cairo, the capital of the country, is a lively, bustling city, situated on an extensive plain. The streets are narrow and crooked, but there are many spacious bazars and gorgeously-decorated mosques; and there is a public promenade in the centre of the town called the "Es-kekyeh," which outvies any square in Europe. There Franks, Arabs, Turks, and Copts are seen mingling together, clad in every variety of national costume; European women on Arab horses and side-saddles; Egyptian females of the better classes muffled in robes of black taffeta,

riding upon asses, and supported by their slaves; the Fellah traversing the streets, attired simply in a wide, loose tunic of blue cloth, bearing a classically-shaped water-jug upon his head, and a child astride upon his shoulders; Bedouins in their striped burnous; military-looking men in cloth frock-coats and the universal red fez-cap; Syrians with capacious turbans, and begirt with the most valuable shawl; and native women upon foot, the lower portion of their faces covered with a thick, mask-like veil. Over trousers and an under-linen garment with wide sleeves, they wear a gaily-embroidered waistcoat; on this again a robe is placed, gathered in at the hips, but descending to the feet, and open at both sides downwards from the waist. The head-dress is simple in the extreme. Their ebullient tresses float loosely on the shoulders, and a small cap is placed upon the crown of the head, to which a kerchief of crape or embroidered muslin is attached, ornamented with several pieces of small coin. The lower orders wear only a dark-blue dress over ample trousers, a long flowing blue and white chequered veil, and carry baskets or water-vessels, with almost invariably a child on the right shoulder. Although not remarkable for beauty, they possess considerable personal attractions; their large, well-opened eyes are dark as night, and shaded by long silken lashes; the nose is small, but the nostrils are slightly flattened, and the lips somewhat too thick; whilst the dazzling whiteness of the teeth is enhanced by the strong contrast of their dusky skins. Their height is moderate; their movements agile, firm, and free; and their figures are never distorted by European appliances.

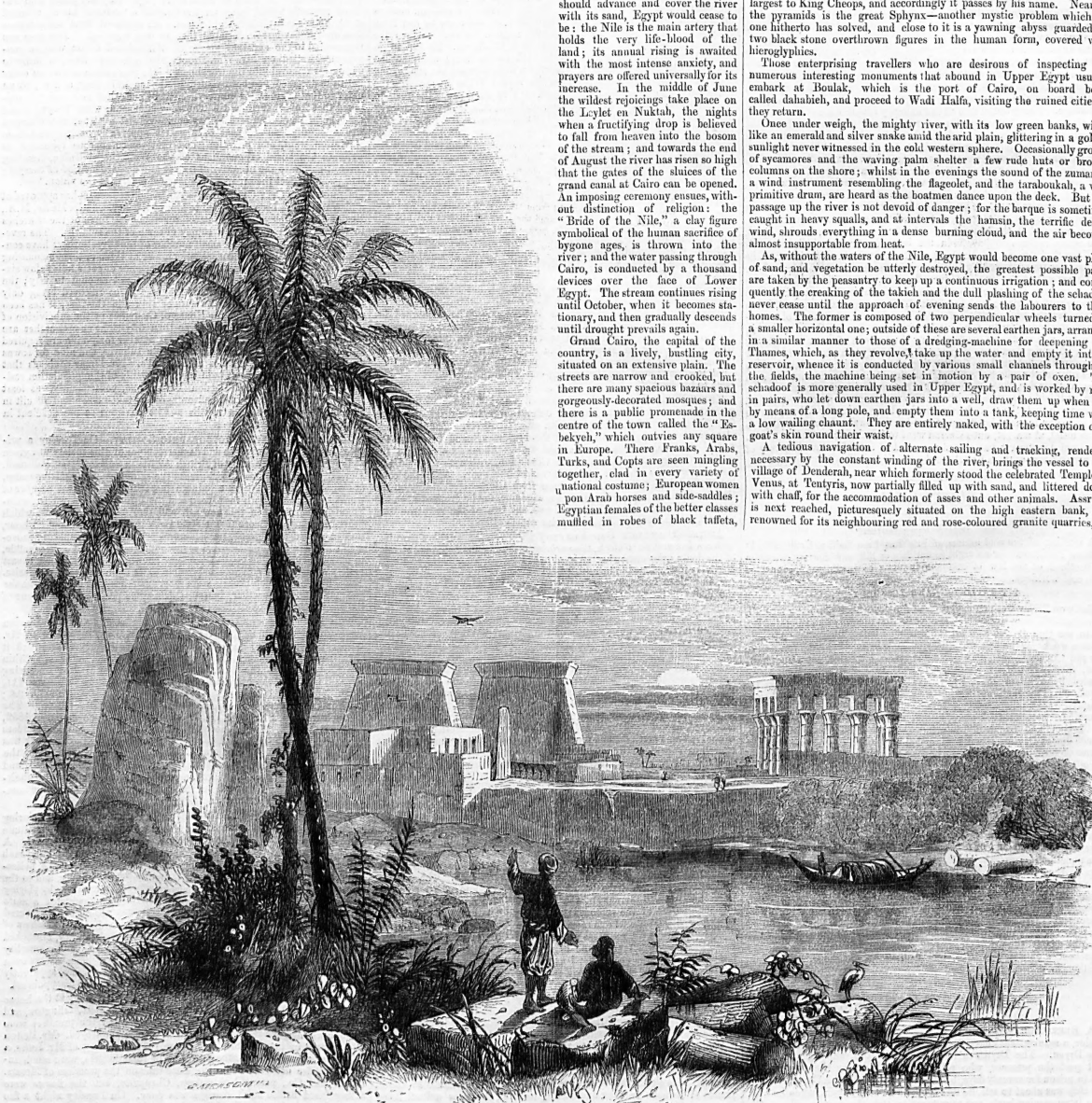
Crossing the Nile shows the lovely island of Roda, where the Pacha has a country-seat, and passing through fields of beans, maize, rapeseed, and the prolific, graceful date, bearing palm, amongst huts composed of the dried river-mud and camel's dung, the traveller comes upon a sea of sand, from which the three great pyramids stand out in sharp relief against the azure sky. Nearly at the base of these gigantic structures is a small village, called Kafey-en-Betram, inhabited by Bedouins, who are the self-constituted guides and guardians of the pyramids. They hold horses, camels, asses, and every other chattel-property, in common; the purse containing the backsheish (gratuities given by visitors) being retained by the Scheikh, who makes an equitable distribution of its contents at convenient opportunities. The pyramids are built of limestone, each course placed a little behind the other, thus forming colossal stairs; and, with the assistance of the Arabs, the ascent and descent are accomplished without difficulty. The date of the erection of these mysterious works is wrapped in obscurity; but tradition ascribes the largest to King Cheops, and accordingly it passes by his name. Near to the pyramids is the great Sphinx—another mystic problem which no one hitherto has solved, and close to it is a yawning abyss guarded by two black stone overthrown figures in the human form, covered with hieroglyphics.

Those enterprising travellers who are desirous of inspecting the numerous interesting monuments that abound in Upper Egypt usually embark at Boulak, which is the port of Cairo, on board boats called dahabieh, and proceed to Wadi Halfa, visiting the ruined cities as they return.

Once under weigh, the mighty river, with its low green banks, winds like an emerald and silver snake amid the arid plain, glittering in a golden sunlight never witnessed in the cold western sphere. Occasionally groups of symonores and the waving palm shelter a few rude huts or broken columns on the shore; whilst in the evenings the sound of the zamarrah, a wind instrument resembling the flageolet, and the taraboukha, a very primitive drum, are heard as the boatmen dance upon the deck. But the passage up the river is not devoid of danger; for the barque is sometimes caught in heavy squalls, and at intervals the hamatin, the terrific desert wind, shrieks everything in a dense burning cloud, and the air becomes almost insupportable from heat.

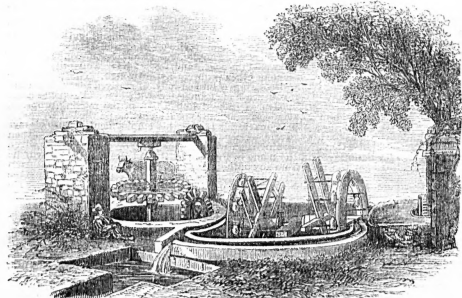
As, without the waters of the Nile, Egypt would become one vast plain of sand, and vegetation be utterly destroyed, the greatest possible pains are taken by the peasantry to keep up a continuous irrigation; and consequently the creaking of the talieh and the dull plashing of the schadoof never cease until the approach of evening sends the labourers to their homes. The former is composed of two perpendicular wheels turned by a smaller horizontal one; outside of these are several earthen jars, arranged in a similar manner to those of a dredging-machine for deepening the Thames, which, as they revolve, take up the water and empty it into a reservoir, whence it is conducted by various small channels throughout the fields, the machine being set in motion by a pair of oxen. The schadoof is more generally used in Upper Egypt, and is worked by men in pairs, who let down earthen jars into a well, draw them up when full by means of a long pole, and empty them into a tank, keeping time with a low wailing chant. They are entirely naked, with the exception of a goat's skin round their waist.

A tedious navigation of alternate sailing and tracking, rendered necessary by the constant winding of the river, brings the vessel to the village of Denderah, near which formerly stood the celebrated Temple of Venus, at Tentyris, now partially filled up with sand, and littered down with chaff, for the accommodation of asses and other animals. Assuan is next reached, picturesquely situated on the high eastern bank, and renowned for its neighbouring red and rose-coloured granite quarries, on



THE LAND OF EGYPT

the islands of Philæ and Bidsche. The lesser cataraets now intervene, and voyagers proceed by land to Messid, the port of Nubia, where the products of Dongola, Corfouan, and Sennar are transported to Assuan, to be shipped for Grand Cairo and Alexandria, and thence to the upper cataraets. On the descent of the stream, the admirers of antiquities will visit the temples of Abusambul—hewn in the limestone rock by the great Sesostri—Kêlâshche, and Edfoû, and gaze in wonder at the tombs of the dead kings, in the valley of Assâf. The far-famed colossal statue of Memnon and its companion sit in a field on the wide Lihyan



THE SAKIA.

plains, thrown upon ruined Thebes. But the days of miracles are gone; and the voice of the wondrous monolith is heard no more, as day by day the sun-god passed above its head. The deceit is now known to have been carried on by means of the priests climbing by night into the interior of the statue, and striking a metallic stone with a hammer, thereby producing a harmonious sound, as the morning rays lighted upon the hero's head. Memnonium, the temple-palace of Ithames, must not be neglected, nor the magnificent ruins of Luxor and Karnak; and then, after drifting by the necropolis of the once mighty Memphis, the residence of the Pharaohs and their queens, of which nothing now remains but an overthrown colossus, the great pyramids of Ghizah are dimly shadowed forth, the heights of the Mokattam, the citadel of Grand Cairo, become visible, and the dalabeh again rises peacefully in the harbour of Boulak.

Abbas Pacha, the present Viceroy of Egypt, succeeded his grandfather, Mehmet Ali; his own father, Ibrahim, having died previously to the



MEMNON.

great Padisha. He possesses regular features, with sparkling eyes, and his beard is just beginning to be tinged with grey. He takes a deep interest in the welfare of the country he has been called to govern, and energetically promotes the making of the railway from Cairo to Suez, thus facilitating the transit of the overland India mail. Rich as Egypt is in cotton, corn, and every species of grain, and dependent as she is entirely upon the valley of the Nile for their production, she needs a well-organised system of general irrigation, with improved means of internal communication; and these being ably carried out, Abbas Pacha will well deserve the title he so much affects—namely, that of "The Father of his People."

Egypt is also interesting as the birthplace of the Christmas-tree, its origin dating from a period long antecedent to the Christian era. The palm-tree is known to have been put forth a shoot every month; and a spray of this tree, with twelve shoots on it, was used in Egypt at the time of the winter solstice as a symbol of the year completed. Egyptian associations are still mingled, even now, with the tradition and custom of the Christmas-tree; there are as many "pyramids" as trees used in Germany in the celebration of Christmas, and those whose means do not admit of purchasing trees and their concomitant tapers, &c. These pyramids consist of slight erections of slips of wood, arranged like a pyramidical *espargne*, covered with green paper, and decorated with festoons of paper chain-work, which flutter in the wind, and make-believe foliage; this latter, however, is an innovation of modern days. The palm-tree spray of Egypt, on reaching Italy, became a branch of any other tree (the tip of the fir was found most suitable, from its pyramidal or conical shape), and was decorated with burning tapers fit in honour of Saturn, whose *saturnalia* were celebrated from the 17th to the 21st of December, the period of the winter solstice; the lighted tapers, the presents given (*calendula*), and the entertainment of the domestics on a footing of equality, date from this age. After the *saturnalia* came the days called the *sigillaria*, when presents were made of impressions stamped on wax, which still form part of the furniture of a Christmas-tree. To the *sigillaria* succeeded one day, called the *juvenalia*, on which everybody, even adults, indulged in childish sports, and hence the romping close of our Christmas festivities.

DINNER IN AN IGUANODON.

A DINNER was given on Saturday evening to Professor Owen, in the model of the Iguanodon, in the grounds of the Crystal Palace, Sydenham. The number of gentlemen present was twenty-eight, of whom twenty-one were accommodated in the interior of the Iguanodon, and seven at a side-table on a platform raised to the same level. Some drapery, tastefully arranged in the form of a marquee above the restored monster, served to some extent to keep off the cold wind, and to prevent

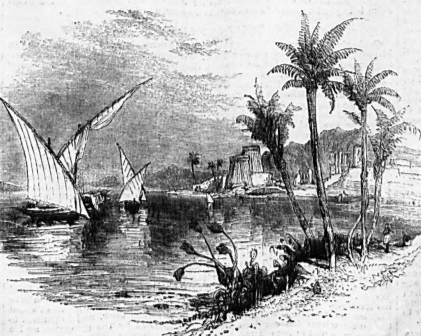
the illustrious Plesiosaurus and his other antediluvian *confères* from prying too closely into the nature of the honour reserved for their more fortunate restored brother. A series of small banners, suspended to the drapery, bore the names of Gavius, Conybeare, Mantell, Buckland, Owen, Forbes, and other scientific persons. Professor Owen occupied a conspicuous seat at the head of the table, and, most appropriately, in the head of the animal; Mr. Francis Fuller, the managing director of the Crystal Palace Company, Professor Forbes, and Mr. Gould, occupied capacious premises in the rear of the monster; while along the ribs were reserved seats for Mr. Prestwich, Mr. D. Wyatt, Mr. Marquar, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Day, Mr. Ingham, and other gentlemen.

The Iguanodon, in the model of which the dinner was given, was a native of Sussex, and several of the bones from the model of which the present animal has been restored were found near Horsham. The dimensions of the animal have been kept within the severest limits of anatomical knowledge. Its length from the snout to the end of its tail is thirty-five feet, he is twelve feet in height, his girth round the body is about twenty-five feet, and the girth of his fore leg six feet six inches. He was a vegetarian in his habits when coarse, rank herbage afforded him his supplies of food, and is undoubtedly the Brotherton of his class.

At present there stands by the side of the Iguanodon, almost completed, a gigantic beast, the Plesiosaurus. He is twenty-five feet in length, ten feet six inches in height, and his girth is twenty-one feet. He has a row of formidable-looking "scutes" or spikes extending the whole length of his back, and which give him an exceedingly terrific appearance. It is supposed that this individual was not altogether a vegetarian in his habits, but that, like his human successors, he devoured flesh with his vegetables. Another gigantic beast is the Ichthyosaurus. He was neither fish, nor lizard, but partook a little of the good and bad qualities of both. He was in the habit of propelling himself through the water by means of a "screw propeller" of rather formidable dimensions, fixed to the end of a long tail, and which worked at the modest distance of thirty-five feet from the nose of the creature. The Plesiosaurus is a large crocodile, something like the Hyacinth, but who, in extreme danger, would himself strand in those of the Ganges, but who, in an immense heat, or long extended jaws, nearly half the length of the entire body, and armed with a double row of horrible, long teeth. This interesting specimen is thirty feet in length. The Plesiosaurus was a native of Dorsetshire, and formed a curious connecting link with the lizard and serpent; he is about twenty feet in length, and has a beautiful, lofty, arched neck, like that of a swan, with one of the most vicious-looking heads that ever adorned a serpent. The gigantic frog, or toad-like Labyrinthodon, is about ten feet in length and of proportionate bulk, and was constructed entirely from those footmarks which the animal had left behind him, and which are still traceable in the new red sandstone. The Megatherium is a most extraordinary animal; he is seen sitting upon his haunches, and, like a great bear, hugging a huge tree, which he is tearing up by its roots, for the purpose of getting at the foliage and young branches, upon which he is desirous of making a meal. He is thirteen feet six inches in height from the haunches to the top of his head, and his girth round the body is about twenty feet. There are also four Anoplotherium, forming an interesting group of those animals who once swam in the vast lake in which Paris now stands, at a time when the stone of which Paris is built was not yet formed. They are not of such vast dimensions as some of the animals around them, and are somewhat like albatra in their form. These smaller and somewhat graceful creatures contrast strongly with the monstrous proportions of the Mosasaurus, an animal found in the valley of the Meuse, having the head of an aquatic lizard, nine feet six inches in length, and three feet six inches across the forehead. The Diposaurus is the representative of an African animal, which appeared to have been the connecting link between the turtle and walrus, having two tusks growing out of his head; his dimensions are about eight feet in length. There are some most tempting specimens of gigantic turtle found in the Isle of Sheppy, and imagination can scarcely avoid dwelling on the delight with which the Gogs and Magogs of an antediluvian City of London corporation must have welcomed the pleasing intelligence of shoals of turtle so near the halls of their civic grandeur. No remains of human bones, however, attest that the solitudes of Sheppy were ever disturbed by the visits of the parveyors of turtle for the monster adormen of those geological epochs. By far,

however, the most interesting and beautiful animals are a pair of gigantic Irish elk. The female is in a recumbent position, and is one of the rarest specimens of modelling we have seen for some time. The male is truly noble in form; the top of his antlers stand twelve feet from the ground and four feet above his head, and the breadth between them is not less than ten feet. The body of the elk is about ten feet, and his girth about the saddle is about eight feet, which such an animal would supply would be of right royal dimensions, indeed.

It is intended to place these animals on an island, where they will be surrounded by representations of those scenes which they once inhabited. But with that constant attention to educational purposes which so brightly marks the direction of affairs, it is not considered sufficient



that persons should merely gaze upon these reconstructed animals; the geological tyro will also have the opportunity of noting the various strata of which the crust of the earth is composed, and the peculiar organic remains peculiar to them.

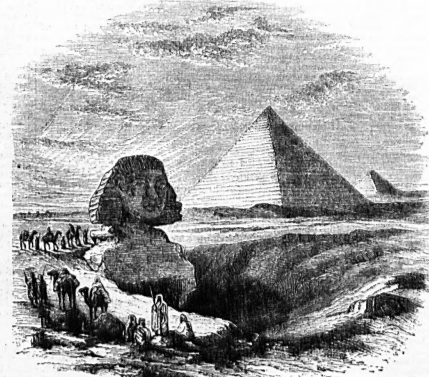
COALS AND THE COAL TRADE.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Newcastle Chronicle*—a paper exceedingly well-informed in all matters relating to the coal trade—puts the public in possession of the following curious piece of information, which he writes for the benefit of coal-owners. He says—"It is pretty well known that the London coal-merchant conducts his trade upon the principle of charging a certain fixed sum above the Pool price, to cover large hire, loading, shooting, leading, &c. This sum varies from 6s. to 7s. a ton, giving a



THE SHADOOF.

medium charge of 6s. Thus, when a household coal is sold for 24s. in the coal-market (which means delivering over the ship's side in the Pool), the coal-merchant supplies his customers at 30s., and so on. I make no further comment on this part of the trade than this single observation: that the Great Northern Railway Company perform the same services—that is, they take the coals from the wagon to the consumer—for 2s. 6d. a ton; and the difference being 3s. 6d. this may or may not be the fair difference; I merely quote it to illustrate what follows. On the 9th and 12th of December a large fleet of nearly 600 sail of colliers arrived in London. This fleet had been collecting, by adverse winds, for upwards of three weeks; and when it arrived, it was well known that London was



THE SPINN.

literally on the starving point for coals. At the previous market 35s. had been given for house, and 25s. for gas coals. In fact, three or four of the gas companies had not twelve hours' stock among them; and the house trade was equally close run. Now, the theory of the London coal-market is, that the coal-factor is the agent of the coal-owner, who pays him an excessive commission for a very easy and unimportant service.

As an agent, if the theory were correct, he is bound to sell the property of his principal at the best possible price—in fact, to take advantage of every accidental circumstance which might enhance the value of the article entrusted to his care. Let us see how this was carried out in practice on the 9th and 12th instant. I have already said that 600 sail arrived at these two markets, and that prices were, just twenty-four hours before, 35s. a ton.

But the coal-factors, without any communication with their principals, suddenly lowered the price to 26s. a ton for best coals (and others lower in proportion), and they sold the whole fleet at these prices. It was quite notorious that there were no more loaded vessels on their passage. Possibly, fifty vessels would be the utmost number that could arrive in London during the following week. At this time (12th of December) it was also obvious, from the crowded state of the Pool, that no vessels then sold could be discharged for one or two weeks.

Notwithstanding these facts, patent to all, the large fleet was sold at 26s. for best coals. As soon as this was disposed of, the coal-factors ran up the prices of house coals to 34s. and 35s. for half-a-dozen straggling cargoes. The coal-merchants advancing *pari passu* with the last price on the market, charged to the public the bulk of the coals bought at 26s. and under, as if they had been bought at 34s. and 35s., putting the difference between these prices and 26s. into their own pockets, in addition to the 6s. to which they consider themselves entitled.

"I have referred to the last fleet only; but if I had time to ransack the files of the coal-market, I could show that this is frequently done—so frequently, indeed, that it would make one conclude that it was systematic, if it were not for the extreme dishonesty that such a conclusion implies. Whatever may be the cause of it, the effect is the same—that is, to take several shillings per ton out of the pocket of the coal-owner and put them into that of the coal-merchant."

At a very moderate estimation, the sum so transferred on the late occasion was not less than £20,000. As a condition of things nearly analogous is imminent, it may not be without use to call the attention of the parties interested in it to the subject.

ten to twenty feet in diameter. Their manner of growth is much like Sequoi (taxodium) sempervirens; some are solitary, some are in pairs; while some, and not unfrequently, stand three and four together. The tallest I have seen fell at about 300 feet in length. The trunk, including bark, twenty-nine feet in diameter, from the ground to at eighteen feet from the ground it was fourteen feet six inches thick; at one hundred feet from the ground, fourteen feet; and at two hundred from the ground, five feet five inches. The bark is of a pale cinnamon color, and is from five to fifteen inches thick. The branches are small, round, somewhat pinnate, resembling a cypress or cedar. The leaves are pale grass-green. Those of the young trees are spreading with a sharp acuminate point. The cones are about two and a half inches long, and two inches across at the widest part. The trunk of the tree is covered with a perpendicular fissure, and is very rough. In judging from the number of concentric rings, its age has been estimated at 3000 years. The wood is light, soft, and of a reddish color, like redwood or taxodium sempervirens. Of this vegetable material, twenty-one feet of the bark, from the trunk of the tree, have been found in the natural cavern at San Francisco for centuries, and forms a species of carpeted room, and contains a pine, with seats for forty persons. A once occasion 140 children were admitted without inconvenience. An exact representation of the tree, drawn on the spot, is now in the hands of the lithographer, and will be published in a few days. The tree is said to be what a portentous age, and almost fabulous antiquity. They say that the specimen felled at the junction of the Stanislaus and San Antonio rivers was above 3000 years old—that is to say, it must have been a little pine when Noah was laying the ark, or, Paris was founded, or when Helen, or Zoroaster, or some other good poet, lay upon his pillow. And this may very well be true, if it does not grow for above two inches in diameter in twenty years, which we believe to be the fact. At all events, we have obtained a plant.

On the 20th of June, I went to the summit of the mountain, and, since the trees were so hardy and evergreen, it is a prodigious quantity.

GREAT FIRE IN THE CITY.

The City was on Saturday night visited by another fearful conflagration. The scene of its ravages was in the most wealthy portion of the metropolis, Bread-street, Cheapside, which, with the adjoining small thoroughfare, Friday-street, in all containing some 200 houses, are insured, or rather their contents, to no less a sum than five millions sterling.

It commenced in a large warehouse, four storeys high, in the joint occupation of Messrs. W. and T. Townsend, hat-manufacturers, Messrs. Hutchinsons and Spiller, carpet-warehousemen, and several other firms. Messrs. Townsend occupied the warehouse on the ground-floor, which extended some eighty to one hundred feet back-wards, and abutted on the backs of several Manchester warehouses on the east side of Friday-street. It evidently originated in the portion tenanted by Messrs. Townsend, but from what cause is yet to be ascertained. The workmen and shopmen left the warehouse shortly after ten o'clock, previously seeing, as they state, that all was safe, and the gas and fires in the stoves safely extinguished; but within a quarter of an hour flames were seen issuing forth through a skylight at the back of the premises. Mr. Braidwood immediately repaired to the spot; and although seven minutes had not intervened from the time of the discovery and the arrival of the engines, the fire had made astounding progress. The whole of the interior of the building was in flames from the basement to the roof. Mr. Braidwood, perceiving the alarming character of the fire, and aware of the immense amount of insurance effected on the warehouses in the vicinity, instantly sent messengers off to call out the whole force of engines, and succeeded, within half an hour after, in getting nearly twenty to operate on the burning property. Owing to the intense frost, some slight delay took place in procuring a full supply of water for the whole of the machines to work from, but this was speedily overcome. For a long while, however, the conflagration gained tremendously, and it was fully expected that nothing could prevent its destroying the entire block of warehouses occupying the space between Bread-street and Friday-street. From the warehouse where it originated it spread to an adjoining warehouse, No. 4, in the joint occupation of Mr. May, silk mercer, and Messrs. Brougham, button makers. Speedily the back warehouse of this establishment was in flames in every part, and then attacking the front warehouse, that shortly also fell a sacrifice. The frontage of three Manchester houses on the opposite side of the street likewise caught. On the other side, amidst the pile of warehouses abutting on the rear of the burning warehouses No. 4 and 6, the fire was penetrating numerous establishments, among them Messrs. Fownes, Brothers, glove manu-



THE FIRE IN BREAD STREET.

facturers, of 41, Cheapside; Messrs. Forster and Co., warehousemen; Messrs. Liddiard, and others. The extent the fire had reached appeared to paralyse everyone present, and a general opinion prevailed that it would be impossible for the firemen to preserve any portion of the premises in danger. Thousands and thousands of persons, who had been attracted to the scene by the immense glare, crowded every thoroughfare

in the district. The City was lighted up brilliantly for an immense distance, and as almost every steeple was at the time sending forth a merry peal, "ringing the old year out and the new one in," the effect was somewhat singular.

The following statement will convey a correct description of the extent and character of the property consumed and damaged:—

"In Bread-street, No. 5, a warehouse of considerable extent, and occupied by various firms, totally destroyed. The total loss here is very great.

"No. 4, a warehouse, contents, stock, &c., entirely destroyed.

"Nos. 7 and 8, warehouses, side windows burned out, and contents greatly injured by water, &c.

"No. 3, the Bell's Head Tavern. Damaged by water and removal, &c.

"Nos. 60, 61, and 62, warehouses (facing those where the fire commenced). Fronts of the buildings scorched.

"No. 41, Cheapside. The extensive establishment of Messrs. Fownes, Brothers, glove manufacturers. Back part of warehouse damaged by fire and water. Several other houses in Cheapside sustained damage by water and hasty removal.

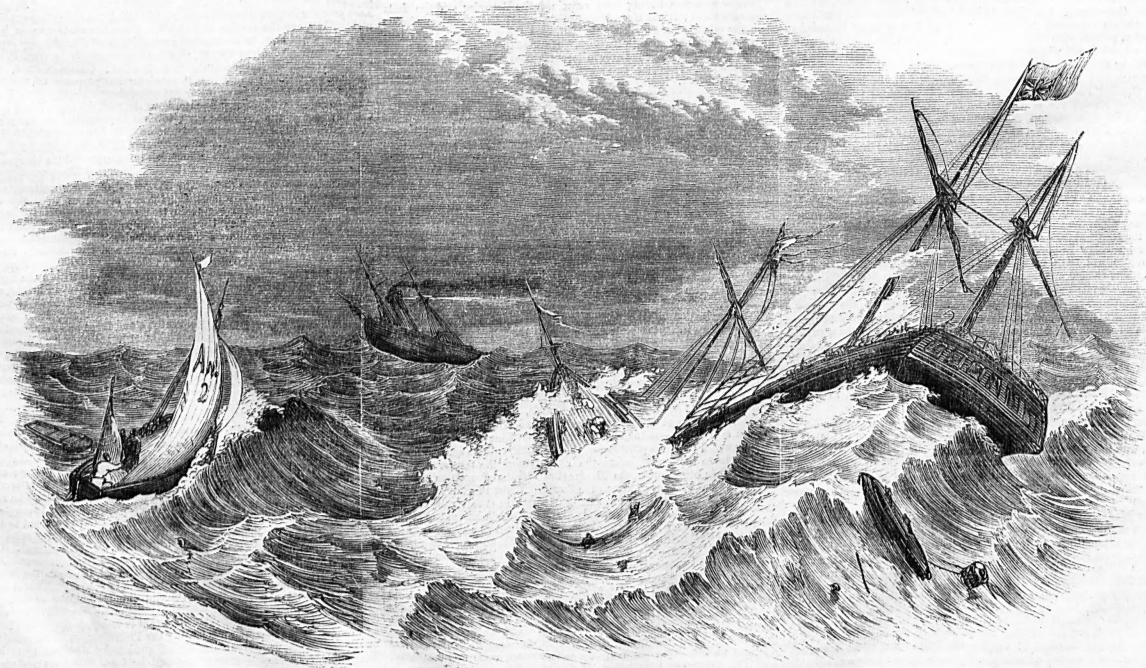
"No. 64, Friday-street. Warehouse. Stock damaged by fire and water.

"Warehouse of Messrs. Liddiard and Co., calico printers and warehousemen. Back warehouse on ground-floor burned out, and stock damaged.

"No. 60, Warehouse. Furniture damaged by water and removal."

Numerous other manufacturing firms, occupying portions of warehouses in the locality, and in some of the buildings above enumerated, are reported to have sustained considerable losses.

It is calculated that the various firms whose property and premises were destroyed or damaged have suffered to the amount of nearly £100,000. In most cases, the insurers will cover the loss, and many of the fire-offices will in consequence be severe sufferers. During the whole of Monday morning, in consequence of the intense heat and body of fire that remained in the ruins, it was found necessary to keep engines in constant work; and notwithstanding the vast body of water thrown on the heated mass, it was then far from being extinguished. No positive clue can be obtained as to the origin of the fire, although the most active inquiries have been instituted by Mr. Braidwood, assisted by those immediately concerned; and the only conclusion that could be arrived at was that it originated in the first-floor warehouse of Mr. Townsend, between the back part and Mr. W. May's warehouse, on the first-floor of No. 4, Bread-street. The walls are in a bad and dangerous state, particularly in Friday-street, and a strong body of the City police are on duty to prevent persons from congregating near the ruins.



THE WRECK OF THE EVA.

TWELFTH NIGHT.



MUTINY AT SEA.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM S. BAKER, the master of the ship *City of Manchester*, of Liverpool, appeared before Mr. Ingham, at the Thames Police-court, on Monday, to answer the claims of thirteen seamen, who each claimed a balance of £10 10s. 6d., in the whole £159 13s. 6d., for services on a voyage from Callao to London.

Mr. Joseph Smith, solicitor, appeared for the seamen, and stated that they shipped at Callao for London, at £8 per month, on a voyage to London, and that each man received £16, or two months' advance, and that the real balances due to them amounted on the average to about £35 10s. each; but to bring the case within the magistrate's jurisdiction, the claims had been reduced below £20 in each case.

The case of William Thomas was first taken, and a *prima facie* case having been established on his behalf, Mr. Pelham, who appeared for Captain Baker, said the question for the magistrate to decide was simply this: The seamen did perform from time to time meritorious services, but a more mutinous, disorderly, and insubordinate crew never sailed in a ship, and they had endeavoured to make a revolt, and had committed an offence which in law was deemed to be piracy. Instead of giving the men into custody for mutiny and piracy, as the captain might have done, he had adopted the more lenient course of seeking to punish them by an abatement of their wages. With that view, the case had been submitted to the magistrate's consideration. The men broke out into mutiny on the voyage, put the authority of the captain and his officers at defiance, and endeavoured to prevail upon them to alter the ship's course, and put back to Valparaiso. If that had been done, the ship and cargo would have been endangered, and the owners put to an expense of £3000 or £4000.

Mr. Ingham said he should like to hear the evidence before he gave a decided opinion on the matter before him.

Captain Baker was then examined at great length, and stated that he left Callao on the 4th of July, and, after giving evidence of the mutiny, read the following entry in the official log-book:—

"July 23, 1853, Saturday, 9 A.M., lat 36 23 S., long. 82 44 W., while at breakfast this day, Captain Baker was informed that the crew wished to see him. Upon admitting them, they stated it to be their intention not to proceed any further in the ship, but that she must be put back to be surveyed. The names of the men who came aft were Benjamin Dunhill, William Thomas, Barker Bigsby, Frederick Parker, Alfred Jones, John Mitchell, John Hickman, John Smith, Frederick Maddison, James Massey, John Thompson, Andrew Storrs, John McAvitt, and James Beard. Upon asking them their reasons for such conduct, John Thompson, Barker Bigsby, and Andrew Storrs were the spokesmen, and stated that the ship was not fit to go to sea for several reasons, and the principal appeared to be that the ratlines were out of order, some of the running gear was bad, that the end of the topmast halyard's fall had broken, that the main tack was bad, that the ship rolled so much (a heavy beam sea on) they could not stand, and several other trivial remarks. They stated their determination not to do any more work, and that they would at once knock off, stating their minds were made up, more particularly Thompson, Storrs, and Bigsby, the latter leaving the cabin, and calling upon the other men to follow, saying it was no use to stand there talking, their minds were made up. Captain Baker remonstrated with them on the course they were pursuing, explaining to them that an illegal combination at sea would, upon inquiry, probably bring down upon them a sentence of transportation, and stated that notice would induce him to put back, when he was asked by one of the men, 'Who was going to work the ship, for that they would not.' After sundry other remarks to the same purport, they all went forward, stating that they would do no more duty. James Massey being the last to leave the cabin, was asked if he agreed with the other men, when he said he did not, although he knocked off with the rest. John Mally was at the wheel from 8 A.M. till noon, no one relieving him, when four bells were struck. At 10.30 A.M. the chief mate went forward to see if they were going to turn to, when they refused, John Thompson saying, 'Put the ship's head east-north-east half



east, and see how soon we'll turn to them.' At seven bells, 11.30 A.M., the ship was pumped out by the first and second officers, Parker (one of the old hands), the steward, and A. Chilton, apprentice, the crew by their refusal running the risk of allowing the water to wash up to

the bottom of the cargo, the ship rolling heavily at the time. Some of the men were sitting at the door of the fore-cabin at the time, smoking, and looking at the officers pumping. The object of the men was evidently to intimidate Capt. Baker, and compel him, by their refusal of duty, to take the ship into a port; they having, previous to leaving Callao, received two months' wages (£16) each in advance. At noon the men went to dinner, no one coming to relieve the watch, which was taken by Parker, by Captain Baker's orders, and he remained there until 5 P.M., no one relieving him at 1 P.M. The chief mate was sent forward to inform the men that the captain wished to speak to them, when they all came into the cabin. Captain Baker asked them if they were still of the same mind, when they said they were, particularly Storrs and Thompson, the latter repeating a great deal of what has been previously mentioned in the presence of the first and second officers, and stating that he did not want the captain to go to Callao, but that any other port would do as well. Captain Baker stated that, if he should be so unfortunate at any time as to be compelled to put back, that Callao would be the port he should go to, as the cargo being the property of the Peruvian Government, they would take measures to punish the men for their misconduct. Captain Baker then stated distinctly his determination to proceed; that he and his officers would pump the ship out; that he would let her drift round Cape Horn, and trust to picking up a few hands from outward-bound ships; and also telling the men that if they did not work they should not eat; when John Mitchell said it was more than he dare do to keep them without provisions. Captain Baker said he had made up his mind upon that point; and upon some one of the men saying that they would not go without provisions, said that he would shoot the first man who came aft and attempted to take anything. He also said that he was well aware that the men had fire-arms in the fore-cabin, having heard a shot fired the day the ship left Callao. Thompson stated that it was he who fired, and that he had been in the habit of carrying fire-arms in other ships he had been in. Andrew Storrs stated that Captain Baker was not going to frighten them, and that he feared death as little as any man, and that if they came aft it would be in a body; when Captain Baker warned him that he would probably lose his life in the attempt. Other remarks were made by both parties, Captain Baker advising the men to return to their duty. Thompson and Storrs were evidently the ringleaders in the affair. They again went into the fore-cabin, refusing duty. 3.30 P.M.—The men all came aft, and wanted to know from Captain Baker whether the above occurrences had been logged, and, if they turned to, whether any steps would be taken against them on their arrival in England, and whether their wages would be paid. Captain Baker replied that it would depend on their subsequent conduct; that they had committed a very serious offence; but that, if they did their duty properly for the future, no notice would be taken of the affair. Upon this the men returned to their duty, after leaving the ship without coming to manage her in the worst of bad weather coming on, and endeavouring to compel the ship to return to port by their threats of not doing more duty, and thereby causing the owners many hundreds of pounds' expense—set them to repair the foretop-sail, which had been split in the morning and was unfit for use, and the officers having been engaged in repairing it, the men refusing to do it."

Mr. Ingham said it appeared to him there was a clear case of mutiny on the 23rd of July, and the men had incurred a forfeiture of wages.

After some further proceedings, Thomas the complainant was sworn, and said that the crew only wanted the captain to put back to Valparaiso for new sails and cordage, for both were defective; and that, after the affair was over, Captain Baker promised, on the word of a gentleman, not to seek for any forfeitures.

Captain Baker said the sails and cordage were good, and that he was 600 miles from Valparaiso when the crew asked him to put into that port.

After some discussion, a compromise was recommended. The parties accordingly retired, and it was understood that Captain Baker would not pay the wages, except upon an order by the magistrate.

STAMPED.]

BEING THE ADVENTURES OF SMITH SMITH.

It was long ere I learnt the full details of my situation; for whenever I asked my pretty landlady, who, now that I was convalescent, came occasionally to visit me, any particulars, she always avoided the subject. It was equally unavailing to pump the good old priest who dropped in every day to chat with me. The only answer I could get from them was an assurance that I should know all when I was quite recovered. This refusal, at last discovered, proceeded from motives of delicacy, a kindly desire not to make me feel the deep obligations their mutual assistance had laid me under.

Thus armed with a *carte du pays*, I gladly accepted an invitation, as soon as I was thoroughly well, to join the family circle (if I may so call it) of my hospitable entertainer, who forbade me to say a word of thanks or gratitude; refusing to listen with an earnestness that proved the goodness of her heart.

The conversation turned on the ceremony of christening a vessel, which was to take place on the following day. My reverend friend was to be the principal actor in naming and blessing the ship. The wife of the Paymaster-General was to do the honours. Monsieur Debus was also to be officially present. From their discourse I learnt that the Paymaster's

lately daughter, who had refused noble suitors without end, was now glad to be the hand of Monsieur le Baron de Varville, who had only reassumed his title after the accession of Bonaparte, from whom only he had received his present profitable situation, and consequently his lovely wife; for Madame frequently declared she had wedded the Paymaster-General of Marseilles, a post of honour—and not the Baron de Varville, a man of fish. For the same reasons which ruled her conduct in this instance—namely, policy—she still openly affected the warmest friendship for the head of the church in Marseilles, and the wife of the Governor, who, by precedence of rank, walked before her. That she was selected to preside at the approaching ceremony was a mere matter of courtesy.

In the meantime the supper, which in those days was the choice meal of the day, had been served, and we drew round it. By accident there were neither knives, forks, nor glasses on the table. Debus instantly remarked it, and seemed more moved by the omission than the cause warranted; indeed, the circumstance appeared to have such an effect upon him that his fair intended could not help remarking it.

anything but a desirable husband. Debutis smiled. "You have rightly guessed the cause of my depression. But it is not with your maid-servant, poor girl! that I am angry. My present feelings proceed from certain recollections conjured-up by the omission, which I will relate to you after supper."

The meal ended, he thus began—
 "It may seem foolish in me to allow a circumstance so insignificant in itself to embitter, for a single instant, the pleasure I always feel in your company; but the fact is, everything which reminds me of the Revolution brings to my memory scenes of such horror that I am completely unnerved. Our being served without knives or forks this evening recalled a scene during that awful period which I will narrate in the fewest words possible.

my friend but a few months older. I tried to avoid the storm by remaining neuter. Sebastian, on the contrary, became the most violent orator of his section; indeed, so popular was he that at last Robespierre began to plot his downfall, and would have instantly crushed him, had it not been for Danton, whose special favourite and *protégé* he was. My attempts to remain secluded, during the Reign of Terror, were abortive. It was known that I had property, and this was sufficient to bring down immediate denunciation. I was accordingly arrested, tried, condemned

and ordered for instant execution: why or wherefore I cannot, even to this moment, tell. Suffice it to say, I was hurried into a cart, and sent off to the gallows. I was surrounded by a noisy, vulgar, and uncouth mob, retarded by a crowd, who were everywhere cheering a man called orator, who kept pointing to several human heads stuck on pikes, and inviting the mob to bring him more. Never can I forget my first glimpse of the gallows, and the executioner, who, I am sure, was probably be similarly paraded. I ventured to look up, and saw the orator leap down from the parapet on which he had been haranguing the assembly, and make his way to my vehicle. In less than two minutes he was seated beside me, and, in a few words, he recognized me, and now, followed by a band of staunch supporters, who recognized the man in charge of me, without hesitation unloosed my cords and set me free. Knowing, however, the impossibility of my ultimate escape, I begged that I might be permitted to see a friend, where I had been concealed during the following five weeks.

"Robespierre, as I before said, was the deadly enemy of Laeroix. I took advantage of this rescue to denounce him, and my poor friend was instantly committed to prison. Danton, on the other hand, lent all aid to protect him, and thus his life was spared. While Robespierre became less popular than his rival, Danton at the end of five weeks had sufficient power to set Sebastian at liberty, well knowing him to be his best and most useful ally.

"It was to celebrate his release from prison that Lacroix determined on giving a grand *fete*, to which, of course, Danton was the first person invited; but who, from motives of policy, chose to decline. I was asked, being now considered secure from immediate persecution; my neighbour who had given information against me having been guillotined a few days previously.

"I arrived at four o'clock, wishing to have some private conversation with my old schoolfellow, whose dinner was to take place at five; but finding him from home, I amused myself by examining the strange furniture of his apartments. There was a mixture of luxury and republican simplicity in the articles selected which bespoke the character of our host. The walls were hung with a tricoloured flag, on which a red cap of liberty, and other emblems of the Revolution, were thickened a few days previously.

BY CHARLES WILTON.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE AT SYDENHAM.

We this week select a few interesting subjects from the Crystal Palace at Sydenham; chiefly because they admit of brief description, while our space for the present number is unusually limited.

The first illustration is a copy of a crouching Venus (antique) from the Louvre. 2, Torso of one of the Sons of Niobe (also antique), from



the Glyptothek at Munich. The central illustration is a fine colossal statue from the Befreiung's-Halle (Hall of Freedom) at Kelheim. It is the work of Professor Halbig of Munich.

Of the two doorways, the first is from the south-east transept of Rochester Cathedral, leading into the Chapter-house. It was erected by John de Shepley, bishop of the see, about the year 1352. The female figure on the right has been explained as symbolising the abolition of the Mosaic dispensation, from the inverted tables of the law; the figure on the right hand, as a bishop elevating the Church. The figures in the arch represent four bishops, benefactors of the see, with angels, &c.

The second doorway is from Kelpeck Church, a very small building in a retired part of the country, about eight miles from Hereford; the precise date of its erection is not known, probably the eleventh century. It is principally interesting from the grotesque carvings of figures and animals, as seen in this doorway, which is the principal one, at the west end.

DICKENS AT BIRMINGHAM.

THE good people of Birmingham may well congratulate themselves on the manner in which they have been spending the Christmas week. While the inhabitants of our other large towns have been contenting themselves with pantomimes and the other usual amusements of the season, it has been their good fortune and privilege to be gathered together like one great family into their fine hall, listening to the most admired fiction-writer of his time, who had come down among them on a mission of most seasonable goodwill and benevolence. The best friend which the new Birmingham Institute has yet found is Mr. Charles Dickens. Actuated, probably, by no other motive than that deep sympathy which breathes through his works for the humbler classes, he has collected and placed at the disposal of the committee a larger sum than any other subscriber. For its benefit, on the evenings of Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday week, he presented himself to the inhabitants of Birmingham, in their Town-hall, and, to their great gratification, read his "Christmas Carol" and his "Crisquet on the Hearth." The former, selected for Tuesday, was repeated on Friday; and on both occasions, but especially the last, was received with unbounded admiration. The latter did not tell so strongly, but was nevertheless favourably received. During the three nights of his appearance 6000 people attended; and the spacious hall, which on the first two nights was filled with the wealthier classes, was on the third almost exclusively reserved for the operatives and their families. It is an unprecedented thing now-a-days to hear authors reading their own works in public. The simple fashion of barlitz times is past, and the fastidiousness of modern ideas finds or fancies something grotesque in such displays,

The appearance of Mr. Dickens at Birmingham is a return to the practice of the olden time, while the benevolent object in view is a complete answer to any insinuation of vanity.

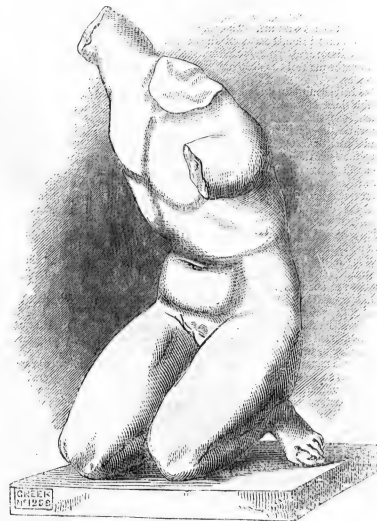
To the characteristics of his genius Mr. Dickens adds an excellent voice, distinct, well-toned, audible to a very large assembly without apparent effort, and which he modulates with much elocutionary skill. His manner, also, is perfectly self-possessed and unembarrassed. Practice in amateur theatricals enables him to introduce into dialogues and conversations especially a judicious and enlightening amount of dramatic effect; but this he has the good taste not to carry too far, nor in the actor to sink the individuality of the author. Bringing these personal advantages to bear upon such a work as the "Christmas Carol," is it wonderful that Mr. Dickens should have achieved a triumphant success in the benevolent object which took him to Birmingham? He has not left an unconverted "Scrooge" in the great hardware metropolis; he has added some £300 or £400 to the fund for the new institute, and he has filled the minds and hearts of the working-classes especially with an appreciation of his talents which they never could have gathered from his writings.

Mr. Dickens prefaced his reading with the following observations:—"My good friends, when I first imparted to the committee of the projected institute my particular wish that on one of the evenings of my readings here the main body of my audience should be composed of working-men and their families, I was unmolested by two desires: first, by the wish to have the great pleasure of meeting you face to face at this Christmas time, and, second, by the wish to have an opportunity of stating publicly in your presence, and in the presence of the committee, my earnest hope that the institute will, from the beginning, recognise one great principle, strong in reason and justice, which I believe to be essential to the very life of such an institution. It is, that the working-men



responsibility like an honest man, and will most honestly and manfully discharge it. I now proceed," he concluded, "to the pleasant task, to which, I assure you, I have looked forward for a long time."

And a pleasant task it was certainly—pleasantly discharged, and most agreeably accepted. The audience never wandered for a moment.



RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

ON Monday last there were no less than three accidents on different lines in this country, which may be attributed, so far as we can learn, to three distinct causes. The most serious, in every way, was that on the Midland Counties—a collision between an express and a luggage train. The weather was exactly that most favourable for the occurrence of accidents. There was a thick fog, a fall of snow, a sharp frost, and the signal-lights could not be seen but at a very short distance. A passenger-train due at Rugby at 6.35 was behind its time in consequence of the state of the rails, and at Harborough, a station three miles from Rugby, was brought to a standstill by a breakage in one of the front wheels of a horse-box. This took place, it is supposed, within a few minutes of seven o'clock. Close upon the heels of the passenger-train was a luggage-train, which was fortunately stopped in time. But the next train due was the express, which leaves Leicester at 7.40, and runs through to Rugby without stopping at any intermediate station. As it happened, it did not leave Leicester until a minute before eight o'clock—more than an hour after the accident had occurred at Harborough. But, although there is communication by telegraph between Rugby and Leicester, and abundance of time was given for the despatch of a message, it does not appear that any intimation was given of a stoppage on the line. A fog signal had been placed on the line, which was happily seen by the driver of the express-engine. Except for this, the consequences must have been disastrous.

The second case was on the Great Northern, and is described by Mr. Spring Rice, one of the passengers. After leaving Hitchin a wheel came off one of the carriages. At first the impression was that there had been some obstruction, but the real fact was very soon ascertained. "By means of shouting and putting handkerchiefs out of the window," the attention of the guard was excited, and the train was stopped; but still it was allowed to run more than a mile before its speed was slackened.

In the third case, which occurred on the Great Western, we are told that the accident arose from the action of the frost upon iron. "One of the three parts of the ties of the wheel broke through the floor of the carriage with a fearful crash." Here again the guard was in happy ignorance, and the train might have flown on (at express speed) had not a gentleman "attracted the attention of the travelling-porter by making a flag of his railway-wrapper." A writer in the *Times*, who has furnished an account of the accident, suggests that the public would have increased security if each carriage had its guard.



shall, from the first unto the last, have a share in the management of an institution which is designed for his benefit, and which calls itself by his name. I have no fear here of being misunderstood—of being supposed to mean too much in this. If there ever was a time when any one class could of itself do much for its own good and for the welfare of society, which I greatly doubt, that time is unquestionably past. It is in the fusion of different classes, without confusion, in the bringing together of employers and employed, in the creating of a better common understanding among those whose interests are identical, who depend upon each other, who are vitally essential to each other, and who never can be in unnatural antagonism without deplorable results, that one of the chief principles of a mechanical institution should consist. In this world, a great deal of bitterness among us arises from an imperfect understanding of one another. Erect in Birmingham a great educational institution—properly educational—educational of the feelings as well as of the reason—to which all orders of Birmingham men contribute, and supported it so heartily, I earnestly intreat the gentlemen—earnest, I know, in the good work, and who are now among us—by all means to avoid the great shortcoming of similar institutions; and, in asking the working-man for his confidence, to set him the example, and give him theirs in return. You will judge for yourselves if I promise too much for the working-man when I say that he will stand by such an enterprise with the utmost of his patience, his perseverance, sense, and spirit; that I am sure he will need no charitable aid or condescending patronage, but will readily and cheerfully pay for the advantages which it confers; that he will prepare himself in individual cases where he feels that the adverse circumstances around him have rendered it necessary; in a word, that he will feel his



RUSSIA IN THE BLACK SEA

THE POETRY OF SCRIPICISM.—Shakespeare, in his own spite tragically, has to desert the pure tragic form, and Hamlet remains the *least* ideal of the poetry of doubt. But what would a tragedy be in which the actors were all Hamlets, or rather scraps of Hamlets? A drama of "Hamlet" is only possible because Hamlet is not Hamlet. He is surrounded by characters who have some positive life, who do their worst for him, and who are not only not Hamlets, but are not even Hamlet-like. He is surrounded by Ophelia, Polonius, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, Claudius, Laertes, Fortinbras, the king—yes, the very grave-digger—know well enough what they want, whether Hamlet does or not. The whole play is that, Shakespeare's subtle *reductio ad absurdum* of that very diseased type of mind which has been for the last forty years identified with "genius"—with one difference, and that is, that Hamlet is not a madman, but a sane man of conception, and that the intellectual type is pure and simple, while modern poets degrade and confuse it, and all the questions dependent on it, by mixing it up unnecessarily with all manner of moral weaknesses, and very often moral crimes.—*Fraser's Magazine*.

1. *Chlorophyll a* (Chl *a*)

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL.

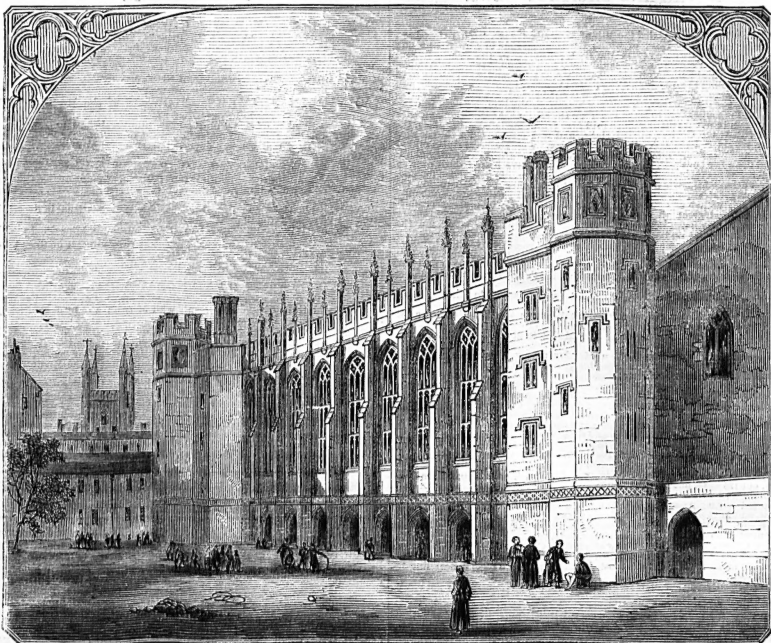
THIS school for poor fatherless children and foundlings was instituted by Edward the Sixth, who completed its foundation only ten days before his death, in 1553. It stands upon the site of the Monastery of Grey Friars, of which a cloister still remains in the south side of the principal quadrangle. The parts built in the reigns of Edward and his sister, falling to decay, have all been restored; but are scarcely distinguishable from the modern additions, which all affect the style of that period, except the Great Hall (the building seen from Newgate-street), built by James Shaw, the architect of St. Dunstan's-in-the-West, in the Gothic style. This Hall was opened in 1829; and the Grammar School, built by a son of Mr. Shaw, has been added still more recently.

The Mathematical School was founded by Charles II. in 1673 for forty boys, called "King's boys," distinguished by a badge on the right shoulder. This school was afterwards enlarged by Mr. Stone. The boys on the new foundation wear a badge on the left shoulder, and are called the "Twelves" from their number. The "Twos" have since been added, on another foundation; making in all fifty-four scholars. The "King's boys" are presented at Court every New Year's Day.

The Writing School was founded and furnished, in 1698, at the sole charge of Sir John Moore, who had been Lord Mayor of London. The wards or dormitories are seven in number. Each boy makes his own bed, and each ward is governed by a nurse, and two or more monitors.

About 900 children are educated in this vast establishment, exclusive of the younger ones, who are kept at a preparatory school at Hertford, and sometimes number 500. Forty thousand pounds a year, in round numbers, are annually expended in their maintenance and education. No boy is admitted after nine years of age or under seven; and none can remain after fifteen, unless he be a King's boy or a Grecian. The dress of the Blue-coat boys is not the only remnant of bygone times peculiar to the school. Old names still haunt the precincts of the Grey Friars: the place where the bread and butter is stored is still called the "buttery," and the open ground in front of the Grammar School is still distinguished as the "ditch," because the ditch of the City ran through the precinct. The boys still take their milk from wooden bowls, their meat from wooden trenchers, and their beer is poured from leathern black-jacks into wooden piggins. They have also a currency and almost a language of their own. The bread and beer for breakfast, however, has been discontinued since 1824; and many quaint old customs are gradually dying away, leaving the bare head and curious costume alone to mark the ancient institution of the school. "We hope," says a late writer, "the unsouth dress will be jealously guarded as one of the barriers wisely set up by the founder against the encroachment of that irresistible power which seems inevitably, sooner or later, to absorb or appropriate to the rich every patrimony of the poor in this country. Early in the present century, some energetic efforts were made, at different times, to recover the interest of the poor in this splendid charity—an institution that seems then to have been so completely null that the pride of those who had monopolised it had actually erased an inscription on the building that recorded its objects in language too blunt for their refined taste. 'This is Christ's Hospital where poor Blue Coat Boys are kept and educated'; nor has this inscription, as far as we can discover, been restored. It was found, however, as usual, that those ennobled behind the letter of the law could laugh at its spirit; and whatever return towards the foundation has since taken place is due to no coercion, but solely to moral force, and the individual good feeling of the Governors, on whom alone it depends whether any or how much of the establishment shall at any time be a charity-school, or simply a proprietary one."

The price of a Governorship is £500, which gives the power of presenting a boy once in three years for life. A list of all Governors who have presentations is published every year at the Hospital. Besides this, the Lord Mayor has two presentations, and each alderman one presentation annually; with the privilege of nominating one Governor at half-price.



THE BLUECOAT SCHOOL.

Four boys are yearly sent to the Universities; and there are two scholarships of £30 each, founded by the Pitt Club and the proprietors of the Times. About seventy girls are educated at the Hertford branch.

THE AFFAIR AT MATSCHIN.

In the night between the 12th and 13th December, two Russian steamers, having six gun-boats in tow, passed in front of Galatz on their way to Ibraila. On the following morning, about ten o'clock, a heavy cannonade was heard at Galatz in the direction of Matschin, a Turkish town containing from 4000 to 5000 souls, situated about four leagues south-east of Ibraila, in the embouchure of one of the arms of the Danube, at the foot of a range of mountains, where a few small breastworks have been thrown up. According to the latest information received, the following are the cause and circumstances of the combat which took place near Matschin. For nearly a month the garrison of

that place, consisting of from 5000 to 6000 infantry and a small detachment of cavalry, was a continual source of annoyance to the garrison of Ibraila, by sending out excursions of sharpshooters to attack the Wallachian outposts stationed on an island opposite the town. These outposts, eight or ten in number, which commanded a view of the Turkish operations, were successively destroyed by small detachments, which, under cover of night, landed on the island, surprised and set fire to their quarters. General Luders, wishing to put an end to these continual attacks, had issued the order to the commander of the garrison of Ibraila to organise a volunteer corps, to constitute some companies of sharpshooters, to be conveyed across the river bank to make excursions in the vicinity of Matschin; but as the appeal was feebly responded to, though heightened, it appears, by the prospect held out of booty in the shape of pillage, the general resolved to attempt a coup de main against Matschin.

On the night of the 13th, the two steamers, with the six gun-boats, landed 5000 men on the right bank of the Danube, 2000 of which belonged to the garrison of Ibraila, 1000 to the camp of Sereth, and the remainder to the garrison of Galatz. This little corps, commanded by Brigadier-General Engelhardt and Colonel Dragana, advanced on Matschin with the intention of attacking it in the rear or the north-eastern side. Whilst this movement was being carried out, the flotilla under the direction of General Luders, who, with his staff, was on board one of the steamers which did not take an active part in the action, arrived where the canal crosses into the Danube, and attacked a battery situated on the extreme left of the town. The fire opened at half-past ten and was kept up on both sides till noon, at which hour it ceased, when the flotilla, abandoning that point, attacked a second battery on the extreme right of the town, so as to combine its fire with that of the infantry, which was approaching the town. This second battery received the enemy still more vigorously than the first, and withstood unshaken, the firing of the flotilla till nightfall. The water of the river being very low, the Russian guns were all pointed too high above the banks, and the balls nearly all passed over the battery. This resistance, joined to the energetic defence of the garrison of the town, which, at noon, exchanged a warm fusillade with the Russian infantry, completely defeated the projected coup de main, the only object of which was to take the place and burn it down, and compel the Turkish garrison to retreat into the interior. According to Russian officers, the same plan appears to have been adopted to drive away the Turkish garrisons from all the points they occupy on the right bank of the Lower Danube, and from which they would not fail to make excursions on to the left bank should the river become frozen over. An attack is daily expected on the part of the Russians against Iatchka and Toulchak. At this very moment a Russian steamer is attempting to destroy with her guns a small group of houses on the right bank of the Danube opposite Galatz, at the entrance of a canal forming a small peninsula; this attack, however, was provoked by a few shots fired into the steamer by a Turkish post quartered in the houses.

Even according to a Russian version, the Russians had from 400 to 500 wounded at the attack on Matschin. This, however, requires confirmation. The troops forcing the expedition returned to their respective quarters on the night between the 13th and 14th. The flotilla received very immaterial damage, from which it would appear that the guns of the Turkish batteries were of very light calibre.

A PLUS! GRIEVANCE.

The following letter from an unprotected footman has appeared in the Times, and we really hope the suggestion of the injured one may not be overlooked.

"Sir,—Will you allow this to appear Through your times.
"To the Proptiate and other Public Amusement Sir when a Servent is ordered by its Master ore Mrs. to be Theatre at Such a time he stands where he is Most likely to See Out Just as if he is driving out A Pack of hounds without Telling us there is a fresh Regulousness But drives us out like dogs Cannot There be a Remedy to alter this South of things without being Treated like beasts by a Pleasman. The Same thing happend to me the other night at the Princess theater This is why I ask the question where is the Servants to Stand Without being insulted by A Pleasman who dont know its duty.
"I Remain Sir. your obedently Servent
"A FOOTMAN."

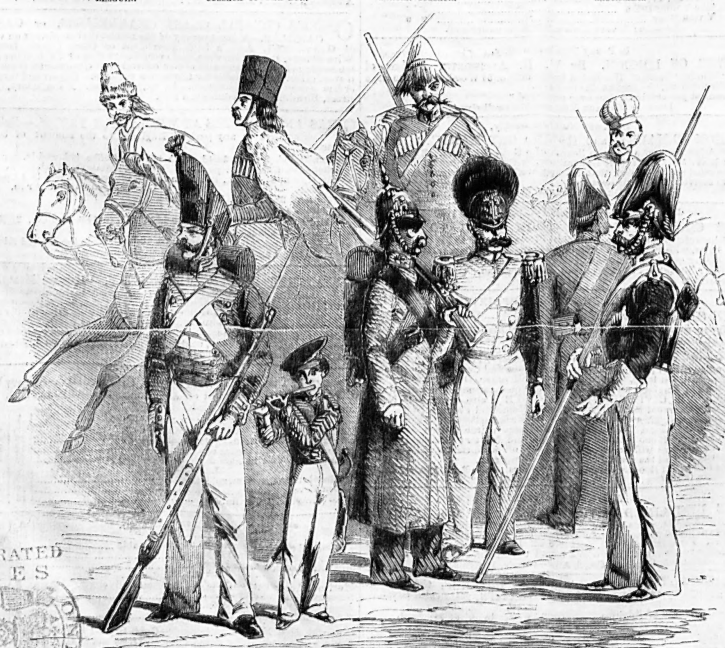
COSTUMES OF THE RUSSIAN FORCES.

LESGUIN.

COSSACK OF THE DON.

TARTAR COSSACK.

KASCHKEIL.

ILLUSTRATED
TIMES

GRANDIER OF THE GUARD.

PIER OF THE GUARD.

CHASSEUR OF THE GUARD.

HORSE GRANDIER.

CUTASSIER.

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